

Obituaries

Duane Washington

On Thursday, November 10th, 2022, Duane Washington, a beloved member of the community, passed away. He was 91 years old. He was born an only child to Virginia Washington and Forest Brooks on July 31st, 1931 in Chanute, Kansas. Duane graduated from Chanute High school, Class of 1949. Soon after graduation, Duane joined the army and served until he was honorably discharged in 1952. He bravely fought during the Korean War and faced 5 battles during his service. After many weekend visits to Portland Oregon while on leave from Fort Lewis Duane decided to make this large and exciting city his home. He soon after met his first wife Joyce, and there they stayed to raise their children together.

Duane was a very active member of the community. He coached and played in many sports team, was a cub scout leader, restored cars to their former glory, and took part in the American Legion. He was a proud member of The Brothers Free Motorcycle club, where he earned his very respected title of Godfather. He helped to charter the Scappoose Lions Club. A service organization that touched many lives, and is still remembered for its impact today. In 1971 he began a long career in the Employment Division with the state of Oregon and retired in 1994, the same year he married his wife Debra. During his retirement, Duane and Debra



Duane Washington, who served in a segregated regiment during the Korean War, later became involved with The Buffalo Soldiers to raise awareness.

ra found a beautiful countryside home where he was able to have his horse Geronimo that carried him in the Rose Festival Parade

to honor his time as a buffalo soldier. They enjoyed many lasting memories with yearly birthday parties for Duane that everyone looked forward to every year.

A favorite activity that stuck with him was mushball, he played and coached for many years. Duane is preceded in death by his father, Forest Brooks, mother, Virginia Brown, and step father, Ralph Brown. Sons, Charles H. Washington, Gary Washington, and Cory Washington. Grandsons, Christopher Washington and LaRon Washington. And former wife Joyce. Duane is survived by his wife Debra Washington. Children Ronald Washington, Tony Washington, Mark Washington, Audrey Washington, Charles Jackson, Leif Washington, Carry Ann Washington and Roxanne Washington, Nicholas Washington and Step Daughters, Jennifer Allen, and Anne Plunkett. His former wife Jana Gregory. And a host of grand children, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and lifelong friends. Duane will always be remembered as someone who enjoyed helping others and had a passion to make as many lives as he could, better.

Grace Nell Brightmon

Grace Nell Brightmon was born May 29th 1943, to Grady Millage and Birdie Lee Ford in El Darado, Arkansas. She completed her education at Washington High school and moved to Dallas, Texas, where she met and married Leonard Brightmon Jr.

Grace and her family later moved to Portland, Oregon. Throughout the years Grace traveled with her sisters, Pauline Manning, and Fannie White and Brother-In-Laws, Willie D. Manning, and Slim White.

Grace was a loving Mother, Friend, Aunt, Grandmother, Great Grandmother and Sister. Her family meant the world to her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Grady Millage and Birdie Lee Ford, sisters, Ruby Millage Brown, Pauline Millage Manning, Thelma Millage Bailey and 1 grandson Adrian Brightmon.

She leaves to cherish her memories, three sons Kelvin T. Millage, Anthony R. Brightmon (Rhea), Leonard R. Brightmon, 1 daughter Tammi M. Brightmon; 2 sisters, Fannie White of Pasco, Washington, and Ann Hardeman



of Midlothian, Texas, one brother, Joseph L. Williams (Tina) of Portland, Oregon; Nine Grandchildren, Yalonda Millage, Christopher Kaha (Madeline), Leonard R. Brightmon Jr., Adam Pierce, Tasia Gramkow, Terraesha Norris, Terrece Norris, Ahmaylh Brightmon, Ta'Mya Nelson, Three Great Grandchildren Leonard L. Brightmon, Elijah Kaha, Solomon Kaha, Unborn for Terraesha Norris, and a host of other relatives, along with so many more that loved her. See: terryfamilyfuneralhome.com for service information.

Suno "Frank" Minniweather



Suno "Frank" Minniweather was born July 31, 1924 and passed on November 9, 2022. Funeral services will be held on Friday, November 18, 2022 at Rose City Funeral Home at 11:00am. Our family would like to sincerely thank the Washington Family and the Portland Observer.

