

## Robert W. 'Bob' Reese

Liberty Lake, Wash.

June 2, 2019

Former longtime Pendleton resident Robert W. "Bob" Reese passed away in Spokane, Washington, on June 2, 2019. Bob was born in Spokane in 1941 and raised in Cheney, Washington.

In 1964 he graduated from Washington State University in business administration. He went to work for Sherwood & Roberts as a loan officer in both Walla Walla and Seattle between 1965 and 1967. He met his wife, Sherry, in Walla Walla during the summer of 1965. They were married in Seattle in 1966 where Sherry was finishing her teaching degree from the University of Washington. They moved to Wenatchee, Washington, in 1967 where Bob served as senior vice president of Community Savings & Loan for nine years. There he expanded the real estate finance activities to include all of Eastern Washington.

In 1976 he was hired as president of First Federal Savings & Loan in Pendleton, Oregon. The name was later changed to Western Heritage Savings & Loan. Under him the institution increased their assets from \$70 million to \$170 million and their branches from three to seven. They also expanded their lending activities through subsidiary offices into Washington, Idaho, Wyoming and Texas. Under his presidency their new home office was built in 1980 on 301 S. Main St., which now houses the Old West Federal Credit Union.

In 1985 Western Heritage merged with Ben Franklin Savings & Loan and Bob oversaw 23 branches in four states for them. During those years he also attended the School for Executive Development at the University of Washington and the Graduate School of Savings & Loans at the University of Indiana.

In 1990 he realized he would have to move to Portland to stay with Ben Franklin. His 10-year-old twins informed him they were not going. He decided to seek some wisdom from Sister Helen Ann, who was the administrator of St. Anthony Hospital where he was serving on their board. She invited him to come to work for them as vice president of ancillary services and director of the hospital's foundation. He served there for five years and loved his time at the hospital.

In 1995 he moved to Coldwell Banker Whitney & Associates as vice president of construction development and sales. Then in 1999 he became director of business services for the Pendleton School District, where he had served on the school board for 11 years. After retirement he returned to work for the Umatilla County ESD under Mark Mulvihill for two more years.

Bob always believed he should use his talents to benefit his community and whatever business he was involved with. At the state level he chaired the Oregon League of Financial Institutions from 1985-1986 and was chairman of the Governor's Task Force to study the feasibility of bringing a medium security prison to Pendleton. They were then charged with building a community consensus for what became Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution.

In 1981 he had served as

president of the Chamber of Commerce. Throughout subsequent years he chaired the Northeast Oregon Air Service Task Force; was a founding member of the Pendleton Economic Development Board; served on the Round-Up City Development Corp.; was on the Umatilla County Budget Committee; on the Cascade East Health Plan; Port of Umatilla Budget Committee; and State of Oregon Quality Education Model. He served as an adjunct professor at Lewis & Clark College and on the Eastern Oregon State College Support Panel.

In addition, Bob served as an elder at his church, Living Water Foursquare. He was a man of real prayer and once he started walking with the Lord, he never missed a day to rise early and spend time with the Lord.

With all those activities he was very much a family man and devoted to his wife, Sherry, and their four children: Jennifer, Adam, Stacey and Shelley. Their friends were often included on vacation trips to Priest Lake, Lake Chelan, Sun River and the Oregon Coast. Adam and Jennifer started going to WSU football games at the age of 4, followed later by basketball games. Bob loved sports and took in most of the Pendleton sports. His dad had coached at Eastern Washington University for 32 years and he said he learned to read looking over his dad's shoulder at the sports page!

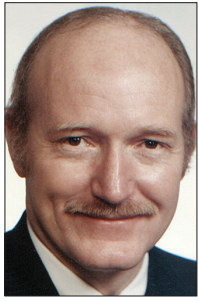
He was involved for 17 summers as the starter for the Pendleton Swim Association, as all four of his children were swimmers. His oldest granddaughter is on a full ride to UCLA for swimming. She was the No. 1 Division I girls' swimmer in high school for two years for all of Arizona. Her mom, Jennifer, said it all started because of all the support Bob gave his own daughter while she swam for PSA.

After his passing his family received many messages from swimmers who had been at the meets where he had started. We include some of them here because they were such a blessing: "Your dad was one of the Monarch swim parents of our generation. Kind, supportive, and such a gentle soul to our PSA family." "Truly a man to be admired and respected. One of my favorite swim dads!" "We all loved your dad so much!"

Bob was an avid reader and usually had five books going at once. He even came to enjoy watching Hallmark movies with Sherry.

He will be very much missed by all his family and friends, but has left a wonderful legacy. His oldest granddaughter wrote, "Papa, you were this family's rock and the most inspirational person to live by. You were so good, so loving, so giving, so kind. I'm so proud to share your last name as my middle name. Heaven gained an amazing soul. I know you are looking out for me still and cheering for me. Thank you for everything." And Claire's mom, Jennifer, added: "I measure all men by my Dad."

A memorial service will be held August 10 at the chapel at Fairmount Memorial Park in Spokane, 5200 W. Wellesley, at 1:30 p.m.



Reese

## Virginia Lee 'Jean' Kelso

Hermiston

August 21, 1933 — June 1, 2019

Virginia Lee "Jean" Kelso was born on August 21, 1933, in Menard, Texas. She passed away on June 1, 2019, at her home in Hermiston, Oregon, at the age of 85 years.

Jean grew up as the oldest of nine children. Her family moved from Texas to Pullman, Washington, where she was a majorette in high school. She graduated in 1952 and married Jack Burton. Jean and Jack lived on a farm in Idaho until 1973 when they moved to Hermiston. They had seven children together and were married for 33 years.

Jean was an excellent seamstress. She sewed many items for her household and clothing for all her children. She also taught sewing to kids in 4-H. She decorated cakes and made beautiful wedding cakes. Jean and Jack owned a carpet and upholstery shop in Hermiston in the late 1970s where they worked together upholstering furniture and laying carpet.

In 1985, Jean married Carl Kelso and moved to Meacham, Oregon, where she ran the Meacham Tavern. She also had a tavern and restaurant in Starkey, Oregon. Jean retired and returned to Hermiston in 2011.

She was crafty and talented in so many ways. Jean enjoyed doing beadwork and arranging silk flowers. She was an avid reader, sometimes finishing a book in a day. Jean was very smart and she loved watching game shows, rarely missing an answer on "Jeopardy." She had always wanted to be on

"The Wheel of Fortune" and would set an alarm to get up and watch her favorite game shows. She loved to play bingo, bunco, and pinochle with her friends each week. Jean looked forward to her yearly bus trip to Winnemucca. Jean also loved plants and flowers and enjoyed growing orchids and African violets in her home.

Jean was president of the Hermiston Eagles Lodge at least twice, and was very active in lodge activities from 1973 until the lodge closed a few years ago.

Jean leaves behind many friends, her brothers Jim, John, and Eugene Martin, her sisters Fay Celmer, Jau-nita Fiest, Sue Franzel, and Mary Hunter, her daughters Terri Dodge, Paula Greene, and Jacque Prior, her sons Randy and Mark Burton, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

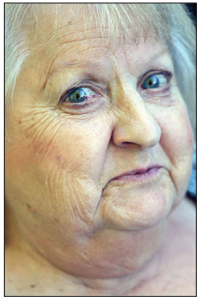
She was preceded in death by her parents John and Irene Martin, first husband Jack Burton, second husband Carl Kelso, brother Ray Martin, son Dan Burton, daughter Penny Burton, and her grandchildren Brandon and Wesley Burton.

A private memorial will take place at a later date this summer.

Contributions may be made in Virginia's memory to St. Jude Hospital or the American Heart Association.

Please share memories of Virginia with her family at [burnsmortuaryhermiston.com](http://burnsmortuaryhermiston.com)

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Oregon, is in care of arrangements.



Kelso



Kelso

## Jimmy A. 'Jim' Bier

Hermiston

December 9, 1934 — June 23, 2019

Jimmy A. "Jim" Bier passed away peacefully surrounded by family on June 23, 2019, at his home.

Jim was the third son born to John and Anna Bier in Milton-Freewater, Oregon, on December 9, 1934. He graduated from Mac-Hi in 1953. After high school, Jim attended Eastern Oregon State College (now Eastern Oregon University) in La Grande where he earned a teaching degree.

Jim's first teaching position was in Halfway, Oregon, in 1957 where he met his wife of nearly 60 years, Pauline. They were married in 1959. Jim and Pauline's journey next took them to Hermiston where Jim taught science, coached football and eventually became an assistant principal. In 1969 Jim, Pauline and their three children moved to Heppner, Oregon, where Jim served as the principal of Heppner High School for 20 years. During his tenure at Heppner he was known as a strict but fair man who held everyone to the same standard.

As a father Jim instilled the love of the outdoors into his children. He loved to hunt and fish and had a particu-

lar affinity for wildflower identification. Jim was a man of honesty and integrity, traits he emphasized to his children throughout their upbringing. Above all the education of young people was his profession and his passion.

Upon retirement Jim and Pauline moved to Hermiston where they remained until Jim's passing.

His parents, John and Anna, and his eldest brother Dean preceded Jim in death. He is survived by his wife, Pauline; brother Bud, Milton-Freewater, Ore.; and children Linda, Antioch, Calif., John, Damascus, Ore., and Robert, Lakeview, Ore. Jim and Pauline have eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

A private family graveside service will be held for Jim at the Hermiston Cemetery, Hermiston, Oregon.

In lieu of flowers, Jim has asked that donations be made to the EOU Foundation.

Please share memories of Jim with his family at [burnsmortuaryhermiston.com](http://burnsmortuaryhermiston.com)

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Oregon, is in care of arrangements.



Bier

## UPCOMING SERVICES

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

**ARSENAULT, JANICE** — Celebration of life service at 3 p.m. in the Hermiston High School Commons, 600 S. First St.

**HARPER, TOM** — Celebration of life service at 11 a.m. at Burns Mortuary Chapel, 685 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston. A reception and gathering will follow at the Hermiston Elks Lodge, 480 E. Main St.

**LOVETT, JOE** — Graveside service with military honors at 1 p.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery.

**TAYLOR, JANET** — Celebration of life at 11 a.m. at Heppner City Park, 444 N. Main St.

**WILCOX III, DANIEL** — Celebration of life from 1-6 p.m. in the Beaver Lodge at Oxbow Regional Park, 3010 S.E. Oxbow Pkwy, Gresham.

**WISE, KEITH** — Memorial service at 10 a.m. at Pendleton Pioneer Chapel, Folsom-Bishop, 131 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

**HESS, HAROLD III** — Celebration of life from noon to 2 p.m. at the Pendleton Eagles Lodge, 428 S. Main St.

MONDAY, JULY 1 — TUESDAY, JULY 2

No services scheduled

## DEATH NOTICE

### Steve William Bowers

Milton-Freewater

Sept. 25, 1946 — June 27, 2019

Steve William Bowers, 72, of Milton-Freewater, died Thursday, June 27, 2019, at his home. He was born Sept. 25, 1946. Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home of Milton-Freewater is in charge of arrangements.

## BRIEFLY

### Catholic Daughters award scholarships

East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Two \$750 undergraduate scholarships have been awarded by Catholic Daughters of America, Court #1692, to graduating high school seniors from Our Lady of Angels Parish in Hermiston: Allison Galdamez and Anna Klein.

Allison is graduating from Hermiston High and

is planning to attend Oregon State University, majoring in electrical and computer engineering. Anna is graduating from Mother of Divine Grace School and planning to attend Wyoming Catholic College, majoring in liberal arts. These scholarship recipients were selected based on the merits of their grades, and community and parish involvement.

For more information about the scholarship, contact Regent Kristi Smalley at 541-571-0997, or Secretary Delia Fields at 541-571-4219.

## LOTTERY

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Lucky Lines

03-07-10-15-FREE-20-21-

25-29

Estimated jackpot: \$62,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 8-8-4-7

4 p.m.: 1-9-5-4

7 p.m.: 8-7-2-8

10 p.m.: 5-1-3-1

Friday, June 28, 2019

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 9-8-7-5

For the first time in Eastern Oregon!



VETERAN BENEFIT  
**EXPO 19**

9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

SATURDAY, JULY 27TH

PENDLETON CONVENTION CENTER

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UNDER ONE ROOF!

NEW THIS YEAR:

VETERANS TOWN HALL MEETING

WITH ODVA DIRECTOR KELLY FITZPATRICK

6 P.M. JULY 26

SAME LOCATION

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP BY

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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The Umatilla County Historical Society Museum

[www.heritagestationmuseum.org](http://www.heritagestationmuseum.org)