

Donald Byron Thompson

Pendleton

March 15, 1932 — November 28, 2020



Thompson



Donald Byron Thompson, 88, of Pendleton, passed away on Nov. 28, 2020. He was born in Halfway, Oregon, on March 15, 1932, to Robert Dolliver Thompson and Thelma Elmer Thompson. Don was proud of his Pine Valley roots, and spoke often of boyhood events and experiences. He introduced his five children to adventures on family property at Summit Creek, above Halfway, complete with cabin stays, Jeep rides, exploring, fishing, huckleberries, Granddad stories, and beautiful mountain setting.

Don attended schools mainly in Pine Valley, but also in Baker and La Grande, as determined by the winter schedules of his father, a Union Pacific Railroad engineer. His junior and senior years were spent at Baker High School. There he played varsity basketball and set records in track for high jump, pole vault and hurdles that remained unbroken for a number of years. He was awarded the Outstanding Athlete of the Year trophy at the close of his senior year, in 1950. Here, also, he met his future wife, Carol Weaver.

Don earned a track scholarship to Oregon State College, where he also competed in basketball. He was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity. After his sophomore year, he entered the Air Force's aviation cadet program and learned to fly, a skill that had been a dream since his boyhood. This launched his 21-year military career as a pilot, first with the Strategic Air Command on the KC135 jet tanker, and later the Washington Air National Guard, flying F102 and F101 aircraft.

In January 1958, he and Carol were married in Boise, Idaho. Loring AFB, Maine, was their home until 1961, when Don left active service and they returned to Oregon. He operated a flying service in Halfway for several years, gaining mountain and back-country experience, including remote short landing strips. This proved useful when he next accepted a position as company pilot for Sunshine Mining Company, with its silver properties in challenging locations. The family became Spokane residents for the next 15 years.

Don discovered the Washington Air National Guard in 1965, and embarked upon a 14-year career with the 116th Fighter/Interceptor Squadron. It was a great fit for his skill set and personality. On the occasion of Carol's birthday in 1969, he was forced to bail out of a crippled F102, with debris and pilot landing in a field west of Spokane. His injuries grounded him for seven months. Time, therapy and determination returned him to the cockpit and the air for another 10 Air Guard years. He never again forgot Carol's birthday! During his Guard years, he

William E. West

Arlington

May 9, 1933 — December 24, 2020

On Thursday, Dec. 24, William E. West, loving husband and father of three children, passed away at age 87.

Bill was born May 9, 1933, at Mikkalo, Oregon, to Alvin and Neva West. He spent his life enjoying the love of family, ranching, making music, fishing and hunting.

He was a kind and gentle man loved by many.

Bill was preceded in death by his father, Alvin, his mother, Neva, and brothers, Jim and Doug. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; his three children,

Randy, Holly and Mitchell; his brother, Jack; 11 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

Bill's immediate family held a graveside service at the Arlington, Oregon, cemetery on Tuesday, December 29, 2020.

Memorial contributions may be made to Pioneer Memorial Hospital, P.O. Box 9, Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements. You may sign the online condolence book at www.sweeneymortuary.com.

OBITUARIES

James Henry 'Jim' Carey

Pilot Rock

July 19, 1935 — December 26, 2020



Carey

James Henry (Jim) Carey of Pilot Rock, Oregon, a beloved husband, father, brother, grandfather and great-grandfather, passed away on Saturday, Dec. 26, 2020, after reaching the age of 85. After months of failing health, he died peacefully in his home with his beloved wife Jackie by his side.

Jim was born on July 19, 1935, in Prineville, Oregon, to Anthony Wayne and Helen Carey, together with an older sister by six years, Lois. A few years after he was born, his family moved to Ontario, Oregon, and five years later returned to Prineville.

As a young boy, Jim's parents struggled to make ends meet and he recalled living in a camp trailer with his parents and four of his five siblings. He would tell the story of his mom setting the five children outside while she was inside making the beds for the evening; the woman was a saint. Approximately 18 months after Jim's birth, his brother Bill was born, or should we say his comrade in arms with Jim in the lead. Next came his beautiful sisters, Shirley and DeVonna. Shirley was the quiet, sweet one and DeVonna was the one Jim would like to pick on unmercifully. Many years later, his youngest sister Cheryl was born.

Jim became an elite football player for the Crook County Cowboys and helped to lead his team to two state championships his junior and senior years. He was asked to continue playing football in college, but because of his circumstances, he didn't believe this was possible and quit high school shortly after his senior year football season.

Jim somewhat lived on the wild side. He often shared the story of the time his team was on the bus when the coach (driver) stepped off the bus to complete a chore. Jim jumped into the driver's seat and proceeded to drive the bus around the block with the coach chasing behind them.

In the early 1950s, Jim married his first wife, Lillian Pierce, and they had three daughters, Banita, Paula and Tami. Before Tami was born, the family moved in search of a job to Eastern Oregon and finally settled in Pilot Rock. Jim started in one of the mills in Pilot Rock and in 1969-1970 he started his career in law enforcement with the Pilot Rock P.D. He then began working with the Umatilla County Sheriff's Department as a detective.

After a few years with the sheriff's department, he began working for the Pendleton P.D. when members of

the community suggested he run for sheriff. He was successful in his campaign and served as sheriff for Umatilla County for four terms, having had to resign in his fourth term due to health concerns. He considered his time in law enforcement as one of the most enriching times of his life, particularly his time with the Pendleton P.D. under the direction of Chief

Gallagher.

In 1985, Jim married the love of his life, Jackie Rasmussen. Jackie brought two children to the marriage, Kimberly and Dustin. Jim considered these children to be his own and felt privileged to help raise them.

Jim considered family his most precious treasure and enjoyed all family gatherings particularly Thanksgiving. He also initiated a "Blue Bloods" dinner on Sundays. Those of you that watch the show "Blue Bloods" know exactly what we are talking about. His daughter, Tami, and family continue this tradition to date.

Jim is preceded in death by two infant brothers, Russell Blair Carey and Gerald Wayne Carey; his parents, Wayne and Helen Carey; his sister, Lois Allen (Don); and his brother and comrade-in-arms, Bill Carey.

Jim is survived by his loving wife, Jackie Carey of Pilot Rock, Oregon; his daughter, Banita Tweet (Jim) of Eatonville, Washington, and their children, Andrea, Travis and Kevin and five great-grandchildren; his daughter, Paula Hascall of Roseburg, Oregon, and her son, Justin Hascall; his daughter, Tami Peterson (Larry) of Nampa, Idaho, and their two children, Matthew and Jacob; his sister, Shirley Templeton (Brad) of Eugene, Oregon, DeVonna Brown (Jack-deceased) of Toledo, Oregon, and Cheryl Strauss (Joe) of Ellenton, Florida; and a host of nieces, nephews and other beloved friends and family.

A service will be held on Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020, at 1 p.m. at the Life Church (formerly Presbyterian Church) in Pilot Rock, followed by a burial at the Pilot Rock cemetery and a reception immediately after at the Life Church. Everyone is welcome.

Jim was a strong, proud and good man. He is loved and will be missed by many.

For those who wish, you may make memorial contributions in Jim's name to Pioneer Humane Society (PAWS) at 517 S.E. Third St. (P.O. Box 1876), Pendleton, OR 97801; www.pendleton-paws.org.

Online condolences may be sent to www.pioneer-chapel.com.

Judi Darlene Minkler

Pendleton

January 18, 1945 — December 21, 2020

Judi Darlene Minkler passed away on Dec. 21, 2020, at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton, Oregon. She was born in Everett, Washington, on Jan. 18, 1945, to Siever and Beatrice Bunch. Judi graduated from Arlington High School, Arlington, Washington, in 1963.

Judi came to Eastern Oregon in 1969 and worked for Smith Frozen Foods before acquiring her cosmetology license and opening The Hair Shop in Athena. Her beautician work allowed her to express her creative side and work with the many loyal patrons in the community. She developed many friendships over the years.

Her passions were her art, her animals, and family gatherings at the river property.

Judi is survived by her

husband of 29 years, Dave Minkler; children, Scott Meadows (Marlene), Chad Meadows (Tyrene), Chet Meadows (Sherry), Jonie Mills (Travis) and Tony Minkler (Jessica); sister, Peg Hartsock; brother, Dan Bunch; 17 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and stepsons, Mark Meadows and Grant Minkler.

A private family get-together will be held when the flowers bloom up the river.

Donations in her memory may be made to Pendleton PAWS.

Arrangements are with Pendleton Pioneer Chapel, Folsom-Bishop. Online condolences may be sent to www.pioneerchapel.com.

Alverda White

Pendleton

March 9, 1928 — December 17, 2020



White

Alverda White passed away peacefully in her home on Dec. 17. She was 92 years old.

Alverda was born on March 9, 1928, to parents Francis and Blanche Thorne. She was the oldest of four siblings, Richard Ray Thorne (deceased), John Emory Thorne of Pilot Rock and James Levi Thorne of Walla Walla.

Alverda married Jack White in 1954, and they had two daughters, Kathy and Mary White. Alverda was an incredible mother to her daughters, and later an incredible grandmother to her grandsons, Chad and Christopher.

For over 30 years, Alverda worked at the Pendleton Woolen Mills factory, from where she retired in 1998. She walked to and from work every day. She

had no interest in driving a car, so all of her life she walked. All of her shopping and errands were done on foot. She walked every day, well into her later years. She attributed her health and longevity to her many years of vigorous walking.

Alverda was always incredibly dedicated to her family. She was the best daughter, sister, aunt, grand-

mother and mother that she could possibly be. She will remain a remarkable example of kindness, generosity, empathy and great strength that we will continue to aspire to. Our lives have been greatly enriched her love.

Services will be held at Pendleton Pioneer Chapel on Jan. 9 at 10 a.m.

Online condolences may be sent to www.pioneer-chapel.com.



James Douglas Stroud Linda Jo Stroud

Ukiah

December 8, 1938 — December 25, 2020
September 25, 1941 — December 25, 2020

James Douglas Stroud and Linda Jo (Bowie) Stroud left this world together on Dec. 25, 2020, as the life partners that they had been since their wedding day on Nov. 4, 1961, in Hood River, Oregon.

Doug was born in Stockton, California, to James Herbert Stroud and Bertha Belle (Butts) Stroud on Dec. 8, 1938, while Linda Jo (Bowie) Stroud came into this world on Sept. 25, 1941, in Hood River, Oregon, to Philip Nolan Bowie and Emma Lucinda (Wilson) Bowie.

They met, fell in love and married in Hood River, where their first son, Bryan Douglas Stroud, was born. Jobs and opportunities came over the years, as did a growing family with two more sons, David Allan Stroud and Loren Gene Stroud, and the family was completed with a daughter, Tamara Kay Stroud.

Doug spent much of his career working in various positions for the city of Walla Walla, Washington, and then later relocated to Ukiah, Oregon, when he went into semi-retirement while driving bus for the local school district as a follow-on to being a bus driver at the Ath-

ena-Weston School District. Linda spent the majority of their 59 years together as a homemaker, but also spent time working at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton, Oregon, for approximately 25 years prior to her retirement.

Doug enjoyed dry fly fishing, amateur (ham) radio operation, and metal detecting, and operated a weather station in Ukiah. Linda was an avid reader with a particular fondness for true crime novels, and enjoyed collecting recipes. They both enjoyed the natural settings in the Pacific Northwest, be they mountains or coastal, where they spent nearly all their lives. They also took great satisfaction in hosting a series of foreign exchange students in their home, many of whom kept in touch after returning to their home countries. They were active members in their community church where Doug also served as a deacon.

Their legacy includes five grandchildren and many friends who mourn their sudden passing.

Arrangements are in the care of Pendleton Pioneer Chapel, Folsom-Bishop. Share online condolences with the family at www.pioneerchapel.com.

OBITUARY POLICY

The East Oregonian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include small photos and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Expanded death notices will be published at no charge. These include information about services.

Obituaries and notices can be submitted online at EastOregonian.com/obituaryform, by email to obits@eastoregonian.com, by fax to 541-276-8314, placed via the funeral home or in person at the East Oregonian office. For more information, call 541-966-0818 or 1-800-522-0255, ext. 221.