

OBITUARIES

THORNGATE—Margaret Thorngate, 91, of Florence, died Feb. 14, 2015.

Margaret was born Nov. 3, 1923, in Glendale, Calif., and grew up in Carpinteria, Calif., where she graduated from high school at age 16, having skipped two grades.

She played clarinet in the high school band and was also a majorette.

After graduating high school, Margaret joined the WAVES, remaining active as a retired Navy veteran her entire life.

She met her husband Fred, a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army, when he was on a week-end leave in Santa Barbara.

They married on July 26, 1945, and spent nearly 70 years together, raising two sons and a daughter. They loved to travel, visited every state in America and enjoyed taking back-country roads and stopping often to read historical markers.

After retirement, they moved to Florence from Southern California. Their passion for travel continued, taking them to every continent and numerous countries, from all those in Europe to Turkey, Thailand, China, Russia and many others.

Shortly before Margaret's death, she convinced her daughter to take her on a final cruise to Alaska, a trip they both enjoyed.

Fred was born Dec. 17, 1919, in Pennsylvania, attending private schools, including Archmere Academy, where he studied engineering, Greek, Latin and German. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and served four years as an officer, including combat in the European theater during World War II.

Fred died June 13, 2014.

Fred and Margaret were pre-

ceded in death by their sons, Rick and Randy.

They are survived by their daughter, Susan; grandson Dylan and granddaughters Jennifer, Julie and Marni, as well as seven great-grandchildren.

A brief public memorial service will be held Friday, May 8, at 11:30 a.m., at the rear garden at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Florence.

MARIOLA—Richard Raymond Mariola, 79, of Florence, passed away peacefully



Richard Mariola

Monday, April 27, 2015, in his home viewing the Pacific Ocean.

Richard was a proud member of the U.S. Army 11th

Airborne Division as a parachutist, serving our great country with honor.

Richard was passionate about volunteering his time to help others and donated more than 10,000 hours serving

organizations like Friends of Florence, Department of Veterans Affairs, Portland VA Medical Center and many others.

Richard worked for Sears for more than 35 years and in his spare time enjoyed crabbing, fishing, golfing and building models.

Richard will be missed by his friends and family but we all know he is in a much better place.

Burns's Riverside Chapel Florence Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

SAMPLES—Harry W. Samples, 70, of Florence, passed a-way at his home on April 29, 2015.



Harry Samples

Harry was born March 5, 1945 in Fairfield, Calif.

Harry and his wife Jackie moved to Florence in 1989 and have been an active part of the community since.

Harry was a cook at

Morgan's Country Kitchen and The Shorewood for many years until retiring.

During his retirement, he spent much of his time volunteering in the community. He was active with the STEP program, the Senior Center, and most recently, Florence Food Share.

Harry was a dedicated husband, avid fisherman and blessed many with his catch of the day.

Harry and his contagious laugh will be greatly missed by many. He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Jackie; his children: little Harry, Angela, Richard and Jill; his brother John Samples; step-children: Joann, Wanda, Terri and Jack; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Donations can be made at Oregon Pacific Bank, c/o Harry Samples Memorial Fund.

A celebration of life will be held at New Life Lutheran Church, 2100 Spruce St., on Saturday, May 9, at noon.

A potluck will follow at the same location from 1 to 4 p.m. Bring your favorite dish.

Harry's family would like to

say a special thank you to: PJ, Bill, Amy, Dave and Catherine.

Burns's Riverside Chapel Florence Funeral Home is in charge of all arrangements.

BICHRT—Frank Bichert grew up in Wisconsin on his family's farm as the oldest child.



Frank Bichert

He milked cows and worked the fields with his horse-drawn plow. His father wasn't able to

purchase a tractor until just before Frank left for Oregon.

Frank enjoyed passing on his memories of events on the farm, and there were many.

Frank left school early to help on the farm. This didn't slow Frank down. He earned many certificates through mail order courses, including TV repair, advanced math and electrical and ham radio operator.

In 1947, a neighbor told Frank of a job in Oregon, where U.S. Plywood was building a mill in Mapleton.

Frank was hired at the beginning of construction. He drove pilings in the river. At the end of construction, Frank stayed on at U.S. Plywood to operate the diesel power engines that provided power for the mill.

He became the head Millwright and worked in that position for more than 40 years.

Frank was featured in the U.S. Plywood newsletter.

"Millwright par-excellence" "inventor," "designer" and "builder" are titles for Frank, who was anchorman in the maintenance section of the plywood department.

He recently designed and built at a substantial savings an overhead crane system for the core lathe.

Known as the Bichert No. 1, the crane system has made core block handling completely flexible.

Frank finally retired after Davidson Industries purchased the mill (now known as Champion International), staying on long enough to train a new millwright.

Burns's Riverside Chapel is in charge of all arrangements.

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Florence Branch | 1875 Hwy 101 | Florence, OR | (541) 997-6000 | www.RealEstateFlorence.com

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