

# On The Record

## OBITUARIES

**TOMPKINS**—Edith “Deedie” Tompkins joined her husband, Neil Tompkins, in heaven on July 22, 2020.

Born in Elma, Wash., on March 10, 1930, Deedie lived to be 90 years old. She moved to Florence, Ore., in 1952 with her husband and daughter.

**Edith Tompkins**

She started her own business, Deedie’s Alterations, in 1953. She created some very unique things, including a new Rhododendron Queen’s robe, an outfit for a stuffed grizzly bear used in a political campaign, and custom fishing boat cushions.

Before there was a Florence Food Share, Deedie took her utility trailer to a local grocery store, picked up donated produce and offered it to people in need in the community.

Neil and Deedie also offered their travel trailer to the police department, which referred homeless people needing a place to spend the night. Deedie hosted Home Extension meetings and was a member of the Women’s Missionary Council, as well as the TOPS Club.

She was also a member of the choir at Siuslaw Valley Christian Center, now known as Crossroad Assembly of God. Her family attended many meetings of the Siuslaw Pioneer Association. They also hosted Rotary exchange students.

Deedie enjoyed performing in school plays when in high school. As an adult, she was an avid swimmer and loved going to yard sales. People would give her their lists and she would happily hunt for those desired items.

Deedie and Neil used to go camping and enjoyed Sunday afternoon drives, picnics and barbecues. She had a very dry sense of humor and her gifts were sometimes an unexpected surprise.

Deedie was preceded in death by her husband, Neil; and her parents, Harold Speer and Edith Dingman.

She is survived by daughter, Sharee Luce; son Lorin Tompkins; God-daughter Valerie Whitney; grandchildren: Erin Luce, Brennan Luce, Levi Tompkins, Laurie Tompkins, Rosemary Whitney, Levi Whitney, Olivia Blesse; and great-grandchildren Evan

Rousseau, Hadessa Whitney and Sariese Whitney.

Neil and Deedie were “Mom” and “Dad” to many throughout the years.

Deedie was cremated by Burns Riverside Chapel. Close family will observe a private service at the cemetery. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, no public memorial service will take place at this time.

However, a memorial Facebook group has been set up. To be added to the group, or to view the Memorial online, please contact a family member on Facebook or email erinluce@gmail.com.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Gideons International.

**CLINTON**—On Tuesday, July 28, 2020, Jack R. Clinton Jr., loving father, husband and friend passed away peacefully in his home.

Jack was born Sept. 29, 1952, in Glendale, Calif., to Jack and D e n o r a (Ness) Clinton. Jack grew up in the hills of Glendale to later go and serve in the U.S. Marine Corps. during the Vietnam War.

Upon returning from war, he married his wife Diane, gaining three wonderful stepchildren and went on to have three more children.

In 2003, Jack left Southern California for the beautiful Oregon coast. Jack was known for his contagious laugh, funny punchlines, kind heart and friendly smile. Wherever he went, he always found new people to become a new, fast friend. He had love for Oregon’s beautiful nature and ran a successful landscaping business with his son, where he could enjoy all of the beautiful greenery Oregon has to offer.

Jack had various jobs during his life that brought him numerous experiences and opportunities to meet many different people. He enjoyed sharing all of those stories and lessons with those who surrounded him.

He is survived by his wife, Diane; six children: Lynn (Aaron), Charla (Bill), Ammon, Jack (Monique), Arne (Amanda) and Kendyll (Andrew); 14 grandchildren and numerous cousins throughout the U.S. and Norway.

Public services to be de-

termined following the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**BECKNER**—Becky Beckner, 91, passed away at her residence in Florence, Ore., on Monday July 20, 2020.

Becky was born April 5, 1929, in Council Bluffs, Iowa, to Theodore Roosevelt Beckner and Marie Lillian (Ruby) Beckner.

She was born prior to the arrival of her twin sister, Esther Oleson. Becky was raised in Council Bluffs, attended Thomas Jefferson High School, graduating in 1946, and continued her education at The University of Omaha.

On April 7, 1949 she married Theodore (Ted) James Kochel. Becky and Ted soon began a family in Southern California and welcomed three children in five years beginning in 1952.

Becky returned to college and began her career as a California licensed Clinical Laboratory Scientist, not retiring from her profession until she was 78 years old.

The predominant thread that binds the stories and memories of Becky is her love of family and friends, her generosity and her faith. The blocks of her quilt are now completed revealing her beautiful life for others to reflect upon, cherish and uplift their spirits.

Becky passed away unexpectedly in her apartment, at Tanglewood, where she

resided for the past eight years.

Becky was preceded in death by her sister, Maxine Thornburg; twin sister, Esther Oleson; and brother, Harold Beckner.

She is survived by her children: Roger Kochel (Serena) Denise Stahl (Gregg) and Laura Peron (Tom); grandchildren: Jesse Kochel (Audra), Terra Wade (Steve), Kendra Kochel (Kyle), Spencer Kochel (Madison), Robert Muma (Katie) and Natalie Peron (Matt).

In addition, Becky is survived by eight great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

There is no Celebration of Life planned at this time due to COVID-19. When arrangements are finalized her ashes will be interred at the Memorial Garden at New Life Lutheran Church.

**SAUNDERS**—Wilma (Billie) Saunders, 89, died on July 29, 2020, after a short illness.

A 23-year resident of Florence, Billie was born in Joplin, Mo., but grew up in Salem. After many years in Southern California, she and her husband, Joe (who passed in 2014 after 50 years of marriage), moved to Florence in 1997.

She was active in Ladies of the Elk, the Episcopal Church and the bowling league.

She is survived by her two children, Diane and Laura; her two grandsons, Alex and Geoffrey; as well as her stepchildren: Tami and Geoff and their children.

Her family was the most important thing in the world to her and she will be remembered for her kindness and loving nature.

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## 60th ANNIVERSARY



**Ron and Penny Merritt, July 30, 1960**

Ron and Penny Merritt were married July 30, 1960, in Stockton, Calif. The couple celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this year.

They have three sons (all boys) and 10 grandkids. They owned Kitchen Klutter in downtown Florence

from 1987 to 1993 before selling it to Penny’s sister, Marteen Wick.

Ron Merritt owned the old Sand Ranch from 1987 to 1991 (now Sand Master Park). Ron coached high school football and baseball at Siuslaw and Mapleton high schools.



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