

IN MEMORIAM

Nora Lebedoff Nelson 1920-2015

Nora Lebedoff Nelson, 95, passed away Dec. 19, 2015.

She was born June 12, 1920 in Elmira, Ore. to George and Maria (Kodutsky) Lebedoff.



She graduated from Armijo High School in Fairfield, Calif. and attended College of Marin, Marin County, Calif.

She married Rudolph Nelson in Reno, Nev.

During WWII she worked for the U.S. Navy Purchasing for 10 years in San Francisco. She then raised four kids, attended college and studied medical terminology. She worked as a medical office assistant for Dr. Michael Franzblau for 19 years before retiring.

Nora enjoyed traveling extensively throughout European countries, Asia and the Holy Land. She loved visiting with friends and family. She was a

faithful Christian, believing in service to others, and gave her time to help those in need.

Survivors include three sons, Robert (Kathleen) Nelson of Salinas, Calif., Thomas (Pat) Nelson of Shasta Lake, Calif., and Barry (Rose) Nelson of Springfield, Ore., a daughter, Donna Meyer of Cottage Grove, eight grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband.

Burial took place Dec. 23, 2015 at Fir Grove Cemetery in Cottage Grove. Arrangements under the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove.

Death Notice

James "Jim" Swan, 87, of Cottage Grove, died Dec. 15. A memorial service and reception will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, at the Masonic Lodge, 33322 Row River Rd. in Cottage Grove. Remembrances to Masonic Lodge, 33322 Row River Rd., Cottage Grove, OR 97424. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel in Cottage Grove.

VFW announces essay contest winners

The following students were recently named winners at the Post level in the Veterans of Foreign Wars' "Voice of Democracy" and "Patriots Pen" essay competitions for the 2015/2016 administrative year.

Sponsored locally by VFW Post 3473, the awards were given at a luncheon at the Post on Dec. 14. Local winners were:

Voice of Democracy: "My Vision for America"
First: Katerine Morton (home-schooled)
Second: Jeremy Morton (home-schooled)
Third: Maeve Dahlen (CGHS)

Patriots Pen: "What Freedom Means to Me"
First: Sophie Morton (home-schooled)
Second: Devon Gosset (London School)
Third: Nadia Witt (London School)

The following are the winners at the District Level; the first place winners will go on to the Department "State" Competition.

Voice of Democracy:
First: Katie Hill (Thurston H.S.)
Second: Katerine Morton (home-schooled)
Third: Cooper Barns (Elmira H.S.)

Patriots Pen:
First: Ally Warner (Thurston Middle School)
Second: Sophie Morton (Home Schooled)
Third: Nadia Witt (London School)

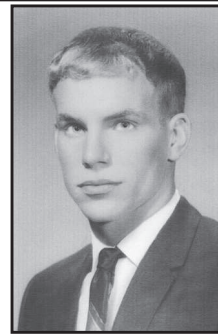
James Lynn Thoreson Nov. 5, 1950 - Nov. 28, 2015

James "Jim" Lynn Thoreson, born Nov. 5, 1950 in Cottage Grove, Ore., passed away Nov. 28, 2015 in Beaverton, Ore. Jim was born to Vernon and Bernice (Patten) Thoreson who nurtured a loving family. Jim attended our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) from first through eighth grade. He also served as an altar boy for OLPH as did his brothers. During high school and college, Jim worked for Bohemia Lumber, Inc. during the summers, in addition to helping his dad on the Thoreson ranch. In his youth he enjoyed sports and socializing with his many friends and family. He attended Oregon State University and was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Jim was a business owner, creating acoustic products to optimize sound in the Portland Airport, Hult Center, and the St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Beaverton.

He is survived by his former wife Teresa Thoreson; sons Cameron Thoreson of Tualatin, Ore., Jason Thoreson of Eugene, Ore., and Brandon Calavan of Windsor, Conn.; brother Steve Thoreson of Cottage Grove, Ore.; and sisters Julee Wright of Roseburg, Ore., Sandy Jeremiah of Pleasant Hill, Ore., and Joni Kniestadt of Tigard, Ore. He is preceded in death by his brother Paul Thoreson; brother-in-law Bob Jeremiah; and nephew Jesse Wright.

Services will be held Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016 at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 1025 N. 19th St., Cottage Grove, OR, 97424. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Union Gospel Mission, 3 N.W. Third Ave., Portland, OR 97209.



MOVING UP HIGHER with Joyce Meyer



Prisoners of hope

God is good. And He has a good plan for each of our lives. No matter what may be going on right now, God's plan is unfolding. In the meantime, Romans 12:12 tells us to "rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying" (NLT).

I think that's good advice, especially in times when it feels like we've been waiting and waiting...and waiting for something to happen in our lives. Hope is vital in times like these and it will keep us looking ahead, anticipating, expecting whatever it is we're hoping for.

Over the years I've learned how to lock myself up in a prison of hope, knowing that God has nothing but His best planned for me. He promised me things concerning my ministry and my life. And hope is what helped me hold on in those early years when it got hard.

Anticipation I remember it was just three weeks into my marriage to Dave, when he asked me one day, "What's wrong with you? You have such a negative attitude!" And I said, "Well, if you don't expect anything good to happen, then you won't be disappointed when it doesn't." That was how I felt based on my feelings about past experiences. I had a very negative outlook on life, so I spoke negatively about it.

This is the way I used to live...before I became a prisoner of hope. As I grew in my relationship with God, I learned how to trust Him, how to stand

on His Word, and how to stand my ground in prayer when it got tough. Today my outlook on life is completely different from what it was many years ago. Now I enjoy my life and I encourage others to enjoy theirs as well. Jesus died for us to live an abundant, fulfilling life. And hope is the confident, favorable expectation of this life.

Double for Your Trouble Now, I do realize there are many things that can happen to us that aren't so enjoyable. And that can make it difficult to grasp the idea of enjoying life. So, think of it this

Please see **JOYCE**, Page 5A

Larry Dale Violette 1938-2015

Larry Dale Violette, 77, of Dorena, Oregon passed away December 15, 2015. He was born January 17, 1938, in Disston, OR to Glen and Florene (Culbertson) Violette. Larry graduated from Cottage Grove High School in 1957. He was a sharpshooter in the Army Oregon National Guard Reserves. While serving in the Army National Guard he received a Perfect Attendance Award. Larry had a 42 year career driving log truck for Bohemia/Willamette Industries. He enjoyed hunting in Central Oregon, fishing on the Oregon Coast, camping, watching "The Price is Right", spending time with his family and playing cribbage with his five grandkids, all of whom he taught to play. Larry married Louise Wiscarson on December 15, 1962, in Cottage Grove, OR. Larry is survived by his wife Louise Violette, Dorena, OR, daughter April (Blaid) Kidd, Dorena, OR, daughter Kris (Jason) Schneider, Powell Butte, OR, grandchildren; Dylan, Shelby, Peyton Kidd, Cole and Conner Schneider, sister Helen (Don) Patton, Port Angeles, WA, sister Marian (Millard) Ward, Klamath Falls, OR, sister Lois (Dave) Gangle, Albany, OR and brother Don (Judy) Violette, Cottage Grove, OR. Larry was preceded in death by grandson Avery Kidd and his brother Duane Violette. A Memorial service will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday, January 2, 2016 at Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, 123 S. 7th St., Cottage Grove, OR 97424. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel.



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