

Tobiason

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It will be the 16th year Tobiason has held the event at the park and placed flags along the Newport Bridge next to the memorial.

"It needs to be done," Tobiason said. "Simple as that. It needs to be done."

Tobiason, chairman of the Bend Heroes Foundation, a nonprofit organization he created 11 years ago, is involved year-round with veterans events and holidays in Central Oregon. His work has grown into establishing memorial highways across the state and country, and leading the Central Oregon Veterans Village project to help homeless veterans.

Local veterans say they would not get the same recognition and support without Tobiason.

"If Dick wasn't doing that, I don't know who would," said Don DeLand, honor guard captain for the Redmond VFW and American Legion. "When he gets his teeth into something, he doesn't let go."

DeLand is impressed with how Tobiason works with the Oregon Legislature and lawmakers in other states to approve the memorial highways.

"Not everybody has that expertise or that time and dedication to do that and go talk to the legislatures and push for bills," DeLand said.

Tobiason has traveled to Salem to advocate at the state capital at least once a year for the past 14 years. And he's driven at least 5,000 miles to all the memorial highways he established in the state. For many state lawmakers, Tobiason is the face of veteran's issues in Central Oregon.

"I've always felt I've had the interest and the energy and the time," Tobiason said. "And I wanted to get these things done. It's just to make sure veterans are not forgotten."

Tobiason is reminded daily of his own military service. He still has shrapnel stuck in his lungs and his forehead from a hand grenade blast during his first tour in Vietnam in 1967. He earned a Purple Heart after surviving the attack.

He served as an Army pilot for 20 years, including his time flying Cessnas in Vietnam as a scout for fighter jets. After Vietnam, Tobiason worked for President Nixon on the National Aeronautics and Space Council, which oversees NASA, with Apollo 8 astronaut William Anders. Tobiason went on to careers with NASA, the National Transportation Safety Board and as a commercial pilot.

During his time in the Army, Tobiason met his wife Mary Jane while in Germany. The two have been married 60 years and have two sons and seven grandchildren.

Tobiason's family still supports his dedication to helping other veterans, even during weeks when he's working 60 to 80 hours instead of fishing and camping.

"My sons see it as a way of using my time wisely," Tobiason said.

Erik Tobiason, a 51-year-old financial advisor in Bend and the youngest of two sons, said he is inspired by his father every day and supports his efforts.

"He's the energizer bunny. He's a complete inspiration," he said. "I don't know if I can find anybody who is as dedicated to the cause and diligent about fulfilling a vision."

Erik Tobiason helped his father establish the Bend Heroes Foundation as a way to create a lasting legacy and encourage others to get involved. The foundation has a board of nine people and a volunteer base of about 40 people.

"The vision is to help veterans," Erik Tobiason said. "That will last forever."

The elder Tobiason has been thinking about his legacy more often lately. He doesn't know how many more years he will spearhead veterans events, but he's at peace knowing everything he's wanted to accomplish is done, or in the process of being completed.

"I'm on the downhill stretch," Tobiason joked.

Tobiason, who was born in Boston and spent most of his working life in Virginia, retired to Bend in 1990, when the town had about 20,000 people and hardly any memorials for



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Retired Army Lt. Col. Dick Tobiason, 86, is the Bend Heroes Foundation chairman and has organized veterans events around Central Oregon for the past 18 years.

Memorial Day in Central Oregon

Bend

• 7 to 7:45 a.m., Memorial Day ceremony at the Bend Heroes Memorial at Brooks Park. The Bend Heroes Foundation, Boy Scout Troop 25 and volunteers will install flags at the memorial and on the Veterans Memorial Bridge on Newport Avenue.

• 1 p.m. Memorial Day service at Deschutes Memorial Gardens. Flags will be placed on the graves of veterans and retired U.S. Army Col. Pamela Mindt will speak.

• 8 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., the organization We Are Remembering — Not Just a Number will gather all day at Troy Field in downtown Bend to read the names, ages and hometowns of every U.S. serviceperson killed in Afghanistan since 2001 and in Iraq since 2003.

Redmond

• 11 a.m., Memorial Day ceremony at the Redmond Memorial Cemetery, 3545 South Canal Blvd. Hosted by Redmond VFW.

Terrebonne

• 9:30 a.m., Memorial Day ceremony at the Pioneer Cemetery, 1340 NE Smith Rock Way.

Prineville

• 10 to 11 a.m., Memorial Day Parade from downtown to the fairgrounds, 1280 Main St. for a re-dedication of the veterans memorial and flagpole.

Madras

• 10 a.m., Memorial Day ceremony at Mt. Jefferson Memorial Cemetery on Northeast Chapel Street.

veterans.

"I didn't see any flags," Tobiason said. "I didn't see any memorials."

Eighteen years ago, Tobiason met Robert "Bob" Maxwell, a World War II veteran and a Medal of Honor recipient. Maxwell served as an Army Technician and jumped on a German grenade in September 1944, saving the lives of four American soldiers. For his heroics, Maxwell received the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest medal for valor and bravery. He died May 11, 2019, at 98.

Tobiason called himself Maxwell's promoter and made sure the veteran's story was shared over the years. Tobiason was motivated by Maxwell to start creating events and memorials in the city. The work led to the creation of the Bend Heroes Memorial in 2009.

Tobiason thinks of Maxwell, and other World War II veterans, every time he visits the memorial in Brooks Park.

"These are the people who

saved the world from tyranny," Tobiason said. "The memorials are important to remember what they did for the world."

Tobiason enjoys seeing other people stop and soak in the

"I've always felt I've had the interest and the energy and the time. And I wanted to get these things done. It's just to make sure veterans are not forgotten."

— Dick Tobiason, who maintains Bend Heroes Memorial in Brooks Park to honor the veterans listed on the plaque

memorial, the largest one in Central Oregon. Whenever he cleans the granite and brick, he watches people read the names of veterans and become emotional.

It's a powerful experience for people and something Tobiason is proud to make possible.

"That's how we got our freedoms," Tobiason said. "We stand on their shoulders and we want to protect their heritage and legacy."

■ Reporter: 541-617-7820, kspurr@bendbulletin.com

OBITUARY

JoAnne Brizee

October 4, 1939 - May 12, 2021



her family "always rooted for the Beavers, and anyone playing the Ducks!" Her friends teased her with buying her University of Oregon memorabilia, and once put a U of O bumper sticker on her car.

JoAnne moved to San Francisco after college, and worked as executive secretary for Bob Stover at Western Girl. She later worked for the founder of Young Life, Jim Rayburn, in Colorado Springs, and was also executive secretary to Ms. Johnson and Ms. Hertzler of Bible Study Fellowship.

In 1964 she married Harry Brizee at Mt. Hermon Chapel in the Santa Cruz mountains. Harry was a police officer for Berkeley Police Department, and they lived in Oakland, California. In 1971 they had a daughter, Amy. They moved to Bend in 1978, and JoAnne worked as secretary for Tumalo School, and later for Xytec and Tektronix. After retirement she started her own business "Creative Clutter", which showed her flair for design and decorating, and her eye for antiques.

JoAnne was a fantastic seamstress, a math whiz, a master gardener, and a beautiful dancer. She was an expert at shorthand and was able to type 100 words per minute. She had a quick wit and an easy sense of humor. She had unwavering faith in Jesus and His Word, and scripture was usually included in beautiful notes she wrote to her family. She loved gospel music and songs of faith, and said she knew she would have a beautiful singing voice when she got to heaven. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Harry, their daughter Amy, and many wonderful nieces and nephews. We miss her more than words can say.

"It is Well with My Soul". Horatio Spafford and composer Phillip Bliss.

"Thou has turned my mourning into dancing." Psalms 30:11 NIV

DEATH NOTICES

Bernard R. Shapen of Bend, OR
January 23, 1930 - April 7, 2021

Arrangements:
Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. 541-382-2471 Please visit the online registry for the family at www.niswonger-reynolds.com

Services:
A gathering of Family will be held at a later date
Contributions may be made to:
Ronald McDonald House
1700 NE Purcell Blvd,
Bend, OR 97701

William Michael Gaetano of Sunriver, OR
(born in Spokane, WA)
March 27, 1949 - May 12, 2021

Born Again of the Spirit of GOD. May 2, 2021 Forever abiding in the Loving arms of The Lord Jesus Christ in the Heavenly Realm.
Celebration of Life Service:
Saturday June 5, 2021
Start around 11am -12 noon
17141 Norwalk Rd.
Sunriver. Hope to see you there!

OBITUARY DEADLINE

Call to ask about our deadlines
541-385-5809
Monday-Friday 10am-3pm
Email: obits@bendbulletin.com

GAVIN MACLEOD • 1931-2021

Actor cracked jokes on 'Mary Tyler Moore'

New York Daily News

Gavin MacLeod, who cracked wise on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and guided "The Love Boat" with a steady hand, has died at 90.

The actor died Saturday morning, his nephew, Mark See, told Variety. No cause of death was given, but Variety reported that he had been in poor health in recent months.

MacLeod shot to fame with his portrayal of Murray Slaughter on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," where he played the head news writer for a TV station where Moore worked.

Co-star Ed Asner paid tribute to his colleague and noted that now he and Betty White are the only cast members remaining.

"My heart is broken," Asner tweeted, with a picture of himself and MacLeod.

"Gavin was my brother, my partner in crime (and food) and my comic conspirator. I will see you in a bit Gavin. Tell the gang I will see them in a bit. Betty! It's just you and me now."

After "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" ended its run, MacLeod played the beloved Captain Merrill Stubing on the hit show "The Love Boat" for 10 years, appearing in 250 episodes.

He was born Alan George See in Mount Kisco, Westchester County, in southeastern New York and grew up in Pleasantville. After graduating from Ithaca College and serving in the Air Force, he moved to New York City, working at Radio City Music Hall while looking for acting gigs.

After minor roles in TV and film, he landed a part in the 1959 "Operation Petticoat," which gave him wider exposure and led to two subsequent roles for the film's director, Blake Edwards.

MacLeod worked steadily throughout the 1960s, including doing 73 episodes of "McHale's Navy," and had just finished the film "Kelly's Heroes" when Moore and her producer/husband Grant Tinker contacted him about her upcoming show.

OBITUARY

Bobbye Cullen DeCook

November 15, 1939 - May 3, 2021



Bobbye passed away peacefully at the age of 81.

Bobbye lived a life, rich in experiences and friendships. She was born in Wild Cherry, Arkansas to Cleffie and Garland Staggs

but they moved to West Plains, Missouri when Bobbye was around 5 to promote their children's education. There she grew up among a large and close family and began her first career as a medical technician. She left West Plains and moved to Kansas City where she met and married a TWA captain, Bernie Cullen. They moved to San Francisco but early in their marriage Bobbye was widowed when Bernie had a tragic drowning accident.

Bobbye was a real estate agent in Marin when she met Fred DeCook, the man she would be married to for 47 years. Fred was building his own real estate firm and she became the training director for new people coming into the business through his firm. But she loved antiques and appreciated beautiful furnishings, so she opened a small shop in San Anselmo, CA. It was so successful that she then opened a large and quite prosperous store in San Francisco, where she catered to the decorator trade. For 25 years she traveled to France and England twice a year cultivating her enormous interest in antiques, art, food and culture. Fred went with her on many of those trips. They enjoyed living in San Francisco and built a home in Stinson Beach and then lived in Healdsburg, CA for 10 years. They settled in Bend in 2004 to be close to her aunt, Dee Davis and her husband, Jim Davis. She kept in frequent touch with her lifelong friends in Marin, CA and family in Missouri.

Bobbye was a true Renaissance woman. She sang, taught dance at Arthur Murray Studios in Kansas City, was a voracious reader, an avid Bridge player and a superb cook. She was known as the "Sauce Queen" among friends who participated in her frequent social events where good food, wine and conversation held sway.

Bobbye loved the natural world. She was a Master Gardener and every year she would plant a rich and colorful garden. As she aged, she simply recruited others to assist her in this endeavor so that she could be surrounded by nature.

Everyone who knew Bobbye liked her. She and Fred were a wonderful team. She had a sense of humor that put people at ease. Filled with warmth and fabulous taste, she made friends feel at home and welcomed. She is and will be missed by many.

Bobbye is predeceased by her parents, Cleffie and Garland Staggs, her first husband Bernie Cullen, her brother, Wayne Staggs, and her sister, Betty Webb. She is survived by her husband, Fred DeCook, her three stepsons Jack DeCook, his wife Kerstin (their children Allyssa, Kylee and Jake), Thomas DeCook, and Peter DeCook, her nephew Justin Jones and his wife Louise (their children Logan and Emily), and her Aunt Dee Davis and grandson, Jesse Colson.

May Bobbye' garden of love forever bloom in our hearts.

Donations in her memory can be made to the Humane Society.

A Celebration of Life is being planned for August in Bend.