

OBITUARIES

Gary Robert Pedersen

Sandy
June 8, 1943 — March 3, 2021



Dr. Gary R. Pedersen passed away from pulmonary fibrosis complications on March 3, 2021. Gary was born in Oregon City to Nancy Marie Edith Salmon and Fred Findal Pedersen on June 8, 1943. Gary attended elementary schools in Rockaway Beach, Reedsport and Corvallis. He graduated from Corvallis High School in 1961 and was privileged to serve as student body president his senior year.

After graduating from Oregon State University, Gary was accepted to the University of Oregon Dental School (Oregon Health and Science University now) and graduated in the class of 1970. While in dental school, Gary met his soulmate, Sonia (Sunny) Green, who was enrolled in a dietetic internship at the medical school. Sunny and Gary were married in Sunny's hometown of Oxford, Kan-

sas, on July 27, 1968. The event was a first for Gary in several ways: First time east of Reno, Nevada, first time meeting Sunny's family in person and first time experiencing Midwest weather in July. The next adventure after dental school was the move to Astoria to build a dental practice, make new friends and get acquainted with the

weather. All of these took a little time, but we were very happy. In 1977 our son Eric arrived, so we got involved with his activities, such as soccer, scouting and sports. We are extremely proud of Eric, who has a beautiful family and works for the Sandy Fire District as a firefighter and paramedic. Dr. P, as he was called at the office, had many wonderfully loyal staff members

who worked with him. Small town practice has the benefit of seeing office patients out and about, and following their activities and families. After 37 years of dental practice, Dr. P totally retired, including the last five years part-time. Sunny and Gary enjoyed several trips to Europe and winter time at their home in Sun Lakes, Arizona. Gary is survived by his wife, Sunny; son, Eric (Rebecca) and granddaugh-

ter, Piper, of Sandy; sister, Carolyn (John) Solvason, of Eugene; brother, Jon (Trista), of Beaverton; niece, Gretchen (Ryan) Guttridge and their two boys, Cayden and Jack; and nephews, Matt Solvason and Ryan Pedersen (Macki). Special note: My life has been filled with many joys; most of which has been the love of my family, wonderful friends and loyal patients. I love every one of you. Thank you to all.

Dorothy Brown LaPrairie

Springfield
Oct. 13, 1943 — Feb. 10, 2021



Dorothy Estella (Brown) LaPrairie, of Springfield, loving mom and grandma, passed away peacefully in her home on Feb. 10, 2021. One of the six children of Ralph and Ethel Brown, Dorothy was born at home in Molalla on Oct. 13, 1943. She grew up in Molalla and then later moved to Gearhart in 1951. She attended school in Gearhart and high school in Seaside. Dorothy married Bernard "Frenchy" LaPrairie in November 1959. Frenchy was a logger and long-haul truck

driver. Dorothy and Frenchy, along with their children, resided in Gearhart, Seaside, Kansas and Colorado. They later divorced; Frenchy died in 1991. Dorothy was fortunate to have two loves in her life. Bob Langa, also from Seaside, preceded her in death in 1984. Dorothy was a homemaker for most of her life, but her first job was at The Grill in Seaside. She also worked at the Bumble Bee Seafoods cannery in Astoria, but quit the job because the jit-

neys (small fork-lifts) scared her. Dorothy was a great mom to her children. As a homemaker, her fried razor clams, fresh from the beach, were everyone's favorite. Dorothy's summers were spent with her children and family having blackberry pickin' parties with all the cousins, picnics and catching crawdads at Klootchy Creek outside of Seaside and sitting in the sunshine visiting with family and friends.

She will always be remembered by family as a tomboy who loved to have fun! She loved looking over old photos and her collections of angels and salt and pepper shakers. Dorothy was small in stature, and very large in her generosity to other people in need. She opened her heart and home to so many, and impacted their lives in a tremendous way. Dorothy was preceded in death by an infant daugh-

ter, Theresa; her parents, Ralph and Ethel; along with sister, Colleen Schinderle, and brother, Ralph "Skeet" Brown. She is survived by her children, Debby Crawford, of Spokane, Washington, Colleen (Nick) Blagaich, of Springfield, Joe LaPrairie, of Springfield, and Butch LaPrairie, of Springfield; grandchildren, Brandon, Rebecca, Stephanie, Taylor and Taiya; and honorary grandchildren, David, Steven, Andrew, Tayler Quinn and Anna.

She is also survived by two brothers and a sister, Vernon "Sonny" (Tess) Brown, of Tillamook, Ernie (June) Brown, of Marietta, Georgia, and Pat (Jim) Nichols, of Warrenton; and numerous nieces and nephews who miss her dearly. An outdoor celebration of life will be held during her favorite time of the year, summer, with the date, time and location to be determined. In lieu of flowers, we ask that any donation you can make be to your local hospice — these people are truly angels!

Sterling John Ficken

Astoria
Nov. 1, 1949 — Feb. 27, 2021



Sterling John Ficken, 71, passed away Feb. 27, 2021, at his home in Astoria. Born Nov. 1, 1949, to John Nicholas Ficken and Angela Elaine (McGovern) Ficken, he was the oldest of five siblings. He married Dawn Colleen Headley in 1976 in Astoria. Sterling attended Lewis and Clark Consolidated Grade School and Astoria High School, graduating in 1968. In 1970, he received an associate's degree from the Clatsop Community College agriculture program. Sterling held many jobs during his youth, caddying at the golf course, milking cows, logging and cutting and wrapping meat at Zero Zone Locker. He was a shareholder at the Astoria Plywood Mill before its closure. Working for Ag-Bag, his travels took him across farmland throughout the western states. Talking to poten-

tial customers was right up his alley! He worked at the rock pit for Warrenton Fibre/Nygaard Logging, and was employed for over 20 years, refusing to retire! Sterling and his brother, Jack, started the Ficken Brothers Hog Farm, raising both commercial and show pigs to help and support the area youth. It was at this time he affectionately became known as "Boss Hog." 4-H and Future Farmers of America were the cornerstones of his youth, offering him many opportunities for travel and education, but most of all, fun! He was the first Clatsop County chapter president. Some of his best memories were of summers spent with friends at the county and state fairs. His involvement with the fair continued as an adult. Serving as an auction ring-man he hustled the bids with his iconic "yeeeeeeup" and his cane to get the best

price possible for the kids. He served as a Clatsop County Fair Board member for many years, and was a current member and past president of the Clatsop County Livestock Association. He was a cheerleader for the youth in the community. His passion was coaching Little League and Babe Ruth baseball teams, including being the "Commish." He could always be found at Astoria High School basketball games, and as part of the Chain Gang at football games. Well known for his trading abilities, he always had seafood, apples or asparagus to share with friends and family. Sterling was blessed by many friendships, including the Lewis & Clark gang, golfing buddies, Scandinavian Benevolent Society, dinner group, party group

and the Big O. He didn't know a stranger. Always there to offer his support and encouragement to his children, Sterling was the best "Poppa" to his grandchildren, taking an active interest in all their activities, making sure the kids always had an ice cream and a little "jingle" in their pockets. Sterling is survived by

his wife, Dawn; daughter, Heather Ficken-Sovince (Ben) and grandchildren, Callahan and Clayton; son, Jason Ficken, and grandchildren, Hunter, Alice and Fiona; siblings, Molly (Leonard) Brown, Mindy (Ron) Sloper, Tracy Gray and Jack (Teresa) Ficken; sisters-in-law, Sandra (Chuck) Kienholz and Roxanne Headley; cousin, Mike Roby; and numerous nieces

and nephews. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Astoria High School athletics, the local Clatsop County 4-H scholarship fund or the Astoria FFA chapter. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements. Please sign our online guest book at caldwellsmortuary.com

COMING IN MAY

our coast

M A G A Z I N E

From Manzanita to Willapa Bay, the beautiful scenery, engaging stories and fascinating history that tells why visiting Our Coast is special. This year's edition celebrates ten years of feature-packed magazines with a special keepsake pull-out poster of Our Coast covers.

DiscoverOurCoast.com

Secure your advertising space today
email sales@dailyastorian.com, or call 971-704-1555

PACIFIC PAINT

COUPON

MILLER
PAINTS
PAINT CO.
SINCE 1890
An Employee Owned Company

**BUY 1,
GET 1 FREE**

**Miller Premium
Interior Paint**

Valid through March 31, 2021

FREE Miller Paint color samples **FRIDAYS ONLY**
(limit 3 per customer)

COUPON

Kirsch
GRABER
*Window
Treatments*

Valid through March 31, 2021

COUPON

Shaw
FLOORS

WHOLESALE PRICES ON
Carpet • Hardwood
Laminate • Vinyl
Tile & Stone

Valid through March 31, 2021

3003 Highway 101 N., Seaside, OR. 97138

503-738-3655

Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. • Saturday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

www.pacificpaintstore.com