

OBITUARIES

Gouverneur Charles “Chuck” Backus

Seaside
June 11, 1928 — May 6, 2021

Gouverneur Charles “Chuck” Backus, ship fitter senior chief petty officer, U.S. Navy, retired, of Seaside, passed away on May 6, 2021, age 92 years, 10 months, 26 days, at his home. He resided in Seaside for the past 56 years.

He was born on June 11, 1928, in Sheridan, Wyoming, the son of the late Guy William Backus and Laura Lorraine Skinner. He grew up on ranches in Wyoming in Buffalo, Lander and Big Horn before moving to the Medford area in 1943, where he worked at Harry & David after school and during summers building shipping boxes.

Chuck enlisted in the Navy on Sept. 2, 1945. His final reenlistment was in American Samoa before retiring on June 10, 1965.

He met his wife of 67 years, Shirley Aline Riley Backus, when he was stationed at Tongue Point naval station in Astoria. They married on Dec. 25,

1948, in Medford; she preceded him in death on June 1, 2016.

Chuck was enormously proud of his naval service. He was assigned to ships based out of San Diego, Long Beach, and Oakland, California: the USS Leedstown (APA-56), USS Steamer Bay (CVA-87), USS Matanikau (CVE-101), USS LCS-92, USS LCM-118, USS LST 855, USS Marshall (DD-676), USS Diphda (AKA-59), USS Gen. William A. Mann (AP-112) and two tours on USS Point Defiance (LSD-31).

Shore duty stations were at the Columbia River Group, Pacific Reserve Fleet (Tongue Point) Astoria, the ship repair facility in Yokosuka, Japan, and the naval schools command in Treasure Island, California.

His military decorations include the World War II Victory Medal, Korean Service Medal (two stars), China Service Medal, United Nations Medal,

National Defense Service Medal and six Good Conduct Medals.

When assigned to the USS Point Defiance, the ship became one of the first rocket-launching surface ships to support the 1958 International Geophysical Year solar eclipse expedition to the South Pacific.

During that deployment the noted American writer, actor, radio commentator and broadcaster and traveler, Lowell Thomas, was aboard Point Defiance, and was a frequent guest in the chief petty officers’ mess, which Chuck was in charge of.

The ship also participated in nuclear tests in the Pacific during 1962. In early 1963, Point Defiance transported the bathyscaphe Trieste from San Diego through the Panama Canal to Boston, and then participated in deep search operations into the cause of the loss of the nuclear submarine Thresher (SSN-593), which sank



during deep-diving tests east of Boston.

After completing his naval career, the family settled in Seaside. He worked for Gearhart and then the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department at Saddle Mountain, Ecola Park and Fort Stevens state parks

before starting the K-9 Motel pet boarding business on U.S. Highway 101.

He was a member of the Seaside Moose and Seaside American Legion Post 99. He liked listening to the early country music artists, avidly read western novels and had a passion for hunting and fishing.

Besides his wife, he was preceded in death by his brother, Gilbert C. Backus (major, U.S. Air Force, retired) of Rancho Cordova, California; son, Guy Edward Backus, on Feb. 3, 2020; and great-grandson, Erik M. Martin, on Sept. 22, 2003.

He is survived by a son, Charles S. Backus, of Seaside; and a daughter, Tara B. Ruth, and her husband, Dennis, of Corvallis. Surviving grandchildren are Rebecca L. Hagan, of Weiser, Idaho, Charles E. Backus, of Weiser, Melissa A. Barnes, and her husband, William, of Lincoln City, Jessica M. Martin, and her husband,

Jeffery, of Phoenix, Arizona, and Karen Dow, and her husband, Justin, of Portland; seven great-grandchildren, Kameron M. Pierce, Chelsie M. Backus, Jasmine E. Hust, Alexandria L. Martin, Liam O. Barnes, Reagan K. Dow and Kevin C. Dow; and great-great-grandchildren, Harper Dahlke, Carson Dahlke and Kinsley Mae Bailey.

Also surviving is a brother-in-law, John C. Riley, of Oregon City; half-sister, Thelma Anne Freske, and her husband, David, of Creswell; half-brothers, John “Bud” Backus, and his wife, Marlene, of Yoncalla, and Frank J. Backus, of White Salmon, Washington, and his partner, Judy Gross, and Richard L. Backus, of Sutherlin; and nieces and nephews.

He will be cremated with burial at the convenience of the family. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematory in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Paul Linn Weaver

Hamlet
June 4, 1944 — Nov. 23, 2020

Paul Linn Weaver, 76, entered his eternal life on Nov. 23, 2020, with family and love all around him.

Paul was most known for his clever and charismatic storytelling, and had a way of capturing his audience with interesting words, facial expressions and his wonderful smile.

He offered his voice of reason to difficult situations and used his warm humor to smooth out the inevitable kinks that life brings. He believed strongly in honoring, building and upholding what was best for the fam-

ily unit, and believed that, however painful, problems held a wealth of lessons to be learned.

He was born in Vernonia to Carl Harry and Thelma Louise Weaver. He was raised in Vernonia, where he attended Washington Grade School before moving to Seaside in 1959.

Paul wrote a column called “Cousin Paul Sez” in the high school newspaper, was active in thespians and played football. He was inducted into the Seaside High School Hall of Fame for the 1962 Cowapa



League football champions years later in 2006.

He graduated from Seaside High School in 1963 and then attended Clatsop Community College in Astoria. Paul then moved to Sitka, Alaska, for work,

and returned to Seaside in December 1964. On May 8, 1965, Paul married the love of his life, Cheryl Hart, in Vancouver, Washington, whom he met at Seaside High School.

Paul worked at the Crab Broiler as a teen, worked as a logger and went on to drive log truck for Waterhouse Logging, Duffy Larson Logging and J.C. Benson Logging.

Paul also served on the Seaside Volunteer Fire Department from 1972 to 1975. He worked for the United Parcel Service for 28

years, driving package car in Seaside and as an occasional feeder driver to Tillamook and Portland.

He earned several awards for safe driving, but was most known by his unmistakable smile and, after retiring in 1998, Paul and Cheryl ran their mom and pop business, Little Diggins, doing tractor work and light hauling for 12 years, and retired again to settle into their life in Hamlet.

Paul was active in the small community and served on the board of directors for both the Hamlet Historical

Schoolhouse and Community Center and the Hamlet Fire Department for several years.

Paul loved to camp, fish and spend time with family, and was “Papa” to his five grandchildren.

Paul and Cheryl were married for 55 years. He is survived by Cheryl, his three daughters and their families. He leaves a great legacy, and will truly be missed by many.

A celebration of life will be held June 5 at 2 p.m. at the Hamlet Historical Schoolhouse.

John Dennis ‘Denny’ Vaughn

Seaside
July 22, 1943 — April 22, 2021

John Dennis “Denny” Vaughn, beloved uncle, brother, friend, teacher and community member, passed away peacefully on April 22, 2021.

He was born on July 22, 1943, in Portland, to Arthur John Vaughn and Alyce Cecilia (Jones) Vaughn. In his youth, his family lived in Portland, where Denny graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1961.

He then attended the University of Oregon. Once out of college, he started

his teaching career at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School in Astoria. From there he moved to the Seaside School District, and taught history and social studies at Broadway Middle School for 30 years, eventually retiring in spring 1999.

His career also included being an athletic trainer at Seaside High School, as well as the clock operator for basketball, football and wrestling. He coached the golf team for the high school for 20 years, and led



his team to the state golf tournament 12 times. His involvement in the school earned him the Seaside High School Hall of Fame award for educator/coach meritori-

ous service in 2008.

Denny had two other passions in his life. The first was his lifelong devotion to the University of Oregon Ducks. He was a season ticket holder for football, and loved everything Ducks.

His second was for the game of golf. He was an active member of the Astoria Golf & Country Club, where he served on the board of directors and as handicap chairman. He was involved with junior golf each summer, and helped

with the Oregon Invitational Tournament, and the club provided him with a great group of friends who would get together weekly to play cards.

In addition to all of the above activities, he also found time to serve on the Providence Seaside Hospital community board.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father.

He is survived by his sister, Roberta Ann (Vaughn) DuBois; niece, Laurie Lutz, of Ogden, Utah; nephew, W.

Craig DuBois, of Rockaway Beach; and great-nephews and great-niece, Jerad Lutz, of Utah, Trent Lutz, of Idaho, Cameron DuBois, of Washington, and Aubrey Bellows, of Oregon, and their families.

A celebration of life will be held later this year.

For those who wish to honor his memory, the family is requesting donations to one of his favorite organizations: Seaside Kids, P.O. Box 275, Seaside, OR., 97138 (seasidekidsinc.com).

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG

SEASIDE POLICE DEPT.
PUBLIC SAFETY LOG

May 8
7:32 a.m., 200 block First Avenue: A person reported

having a mental health episode is located by police; he was offered services which he declined.

6:01 p.m., 900 block Avenue K: A person with mental health issues is trespassed at the request of the homeowner.

10:45 p.m., 900 block Tenth Avenue: A person is arrested for violating a restraining order.

11:18 p.m., Turnaround: A disturbance is reported.

May 9
9:29 a.m., 1100 block S. Irvine:

A person sleeping in a doorway is advised to leave.

4:12 p.m., 300 block Alpine: A disturbance is reported.

May 10
3:35 p.m., Avenue S and Wahanna: A horse reported in the road was already corralled

when police arrived.

7:41 p.m., 2200 block N. Wahanna: Police contact subject reported going through mailboxes but find nothing of concern.

9:08 p.m., S. Roosevelt : A person reported living behind the

old Pizza Hut is warned he can't live there and is trespassed.

May 11
2:48 a.m., 2100 block S. Columbia: Suspicious circumstances are reported.

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Mental health is a puzzle that's done best together

COLUMBIA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
columbiamemorial.org/behavioral-health

Shred for Good!
Community Shred Day and Food Drive

Wednesday, May 26th
9:00AM - 5:00PM

Seaside, Warrenton, Cathlamet, Long Beach and Ocean Park Branches

Please bring a nonperishable food item along with your confidential documents. Food items will be distributed to local food banks.
30 lbs or 2 grocery bag maximum - confidential material only, please.

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