

## Gwynn Marie Bakkensen

Portland  
Oct. 4, 1931 — Nov. 1, 2021

Gwynn and Joe Bakkensen were together till the end. Gwynn died on Nov. 1, 2021, at 90, and Joe died on Nov. 8, 2021. They were married for 68 years, had five children, 14 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Gwynn was proud of her family, and they were always the center of her life.

She was preceded in death by her eldest daughter, Laurie Bakkensen Odlum (Jim), and survived by Nancy Bakkensen Plumlee (Maury), of Vancouver, Washington, Joni Bakkensen Juergens (Eric), of Madison, Wisconsin, Drew Bakkensen (Debbie), of Portland, and Jim Bakkensen (Laura), of Scappoose.

Gwynn Marie Calkins was born on Oct. 4, 1931, in Portland. Gwynn had a difficult childhood, with limited parental involvement. She never used this as an excuse not to succeed.

Gwynn graduated from Astoria High School. She married Joe Bakkensen on June 6, 1953. The newlyweds lived in Portland and Seattle, settling in Astoria in 1961.

Gwynn later got an associate degree from Clatsop Community College. She then worked as a realtor in Astoria. When Joe's work took them to Oklahoma, she continued her education at Oklahoma State University. At the time she had three children in college, and found humor in comparing GPAs, as hers was always a 4.0.

Typical of her generation, Gwynn's primary focus was her family. Gwynn managed a household with five children, and always had room at the table for cousins and friends. When they remodeled their Astoria home in the 1970s, Gwynn put a picnic table in the kitchen. You could always add another person to the table with bench seating.

Kindness and humor were hallmarks of Gwynn's personality. When Gwynn's health made a move to assisted living necessary, one of her big concerns was who would take the Meals on Wheels route that she and Joe covered.

Gwynn took on leadership roles in church, scouting and the Rotary club, as well as any organization her kids were involved in.

Her kids' activities often took her out of her comfort zone. She learned to load a horse in a trailer, took sewing classes so she could keep one step ahead and brought home snakes and frogs from the country club to entertain her sons.

She was involved in the League of Women Voters, and felt strongly about edu-



Gwynn and Joe Bakkensen

cational opportunities for women. She was a lifelong learner. The Philanthropic Educational Organization was a passion of hers. Gwynn was the chairwomen of the educational committee for many years.

Although Gwynn immersed herself in her husband's Scandinavian culture, she was also proud of her heritage. She knit Irish fisherman afghans for all her children and grandchildren as high school graduation gifts. Considering the crippling arthritis in her hands, this was a gift of pure love and devotion.

Joe and Gwynn loved the game of golf, and it influenced much of their leisure time, as well as travel. Gwynn had three holes-in-one, and fully enjoyed the competition and the social aspects of the game.

They built a home in Surf Pines, and enjoyed the proximity to the Astoria Golf & Country Club. Gwynn walked a loop to the beach most days with her dog, and stayed fit her whole life. Gwynn was also a master gardener, although the sandy soil in Surf Pines challenged her green thumb.

There will be a celebration of life for both Gwynn and Joe on March 5 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Seaside, with a reception to follow.

To accommodate any COVID-19 related changes to this plan, please RSVP to gwynn.joe.service@gmail.com

Donations may be made in Gwynn's memory to the P.E.O. Oregon Marguerite Scholarship Fund; donations may be sent to the Oregon State Chapter P.E.O. Sisterhood Charitable Trust, in care of A. Carpenter, P.O. Box 777, Astoria, OR., 97103.

## Joseph Edward Bakkensen

Portland  
Feb. 9, 1929 — Nov. 8, 2021



Joe and Gwynn Bakkensen were together till the end. Joe died at 92, on Nov. 8, 2021, joining his wife, Gwynn, who died on Nov. 1, 2021. They were married for 68 years, had five children, 14 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Joe's family was his pride and joy, and the center of his life.

He was preceded in death by his eldest daughter, Laurie Bakkensen Odlum (Jim), and is survived by Nancy Bakkensen Plumlee (Maury), of Vancouver, Washington, Joni Bakkensen Juergens (Eric), of Madison, Wisconsin, Drew Bakkensen (Debbie), of Portland, and Jim Bakkensen (Laura), of Scappoose.

Joseph Edward Bakkensen was born at home, in Astoria, on Feb. 9, 1929. He was the youngest of nine children in a loud and loving Scandinavian family. Joe graduated from Astoria High School early, and joined the U.S. Army at 17.

He served in World War II in Japan, and then returned to Oregon, using the GI Bill to attend Linfield College. Joe was president of his fraternity, and his class, while a student at Linfield.

He married Gwynn Marie Calkins the weekend after he graduated from college on June 6, 1953. They lived in Portland and Seattle, returning to Astoria when Joe became a sales representative for Bumble Bee Seafoods. Later, to avoid relocation out of state, Joe became vice president of Barbey Packing Co. Joe purchased Barbey Packing, and expanded the business to include Union Fish.

Joe was fond of retiring, but was not good at it. After he sold Barbey, he went to work as business manager of Claterbos Construction. Next, Joe put his political acumen to work as a Clatsop County commissioner. Finally, he worked for the federal government with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Joe provided many opportunities for his children and grandchildren that he did not have growing up, and for him that was the measure of success.

Joe had an infectious enthusiasm for life. He was a raconteur, and thoroughly enjoyed entertaining. He could remember events in great detail, up until the end of his life.

One constant in Joe's life was a dog. From his first dog, "Wacky," to his last dog "Hari," they could always be seen by his side. They were usually waiting for a table scrap or a



Joe and Gwynn Bakkensen

ride in his truck, and they were important to him. He even suggested his loyal companion Hari should be nominated for sainthood.

He was devoted to Astoria, and served the community in numerous ways. He volunteered for, was on the board of, or was president of, many local businesses and nonprofit organizations. Joe never met an organization he didn't want to join and lead. He was known by his colleagues for his intelligence, but was quick to remind his children, "it's nice to be smart, but it's smarter to be nice."

Joe loved playing, watching and coaching sports of all kinds. Golf was his primary sport, and something he shared with his family. He had three holes-in-one. Joe and Gwynn enjoyed international travel for work and pleasure, often with golf clubs in tow. Joe was a grandmaster at bridge, and he loved a good bridge tournament.

In June 2014, Joe, Gwynn and their youngest son, Jim, were thrilled to attend an honor flight to Washington, D.C.

A celebration of life for Joe and Gwynn will be held at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Seaside on March 5. A reception will follow.

To accommodate any COVID-19 related changes to this plan, please RSVP to gwynn.joe.service@gmail.com

To honor Joe's love of golf and education, memorial donations may go to the Evans Scholarship for caddies: Evans Scholars Foundation, 2501 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, IL., 60626-8022.

### PUBLIC SAFETY LOG



**Jan. 7**  
**4:43 p.m.**, 300 block Avenue C: Caller requests welfare check on his wife and children.  
**5:03 p.m.**, 400 block S. Holladay: Caller requests welfare check on his father who he thinks may be intoxicated and unable to care for himself.  
**11:03 p.m.**, 1300 block Kyla Lane: Welfare check.  
**Jan. 8**  
**12:07 p.m.**, 500 block S. Holladay: Fraud is reported.  
**7:24 p.m.**, 2000 block N. Roosevelt: A person is arrested on a warrant.  
**Jan. 9**  
**10:39 a.m.**, Sunset Boulevard and Keepsake Drive: Caller reports disturbance between himself and another person over a drone. He is given options.  
**Jan. 10**  
**9:33 a.m.**, 600 block Avenue T: Caller registers a complaint

about a neighbor who yodels all night.

**1:15 p.m.**, 800 block Necanicum Drive: Caller reports a stolen lawn ornament.

**4:31 p.m.**, Avenue U Bridge: A person is arrested on a warrant after a suspicious item is reported.

**Jan. 11**

**2:34 a.m.**, 800 block S. Roosevelt: Police receive a report of a male harassing customers at a business.

**12:54 p.m.**, 1000 block S. Downing: Caller reports neighbor is using a jammer to reroute her phone calls.

**1:48 p.m.**, 800 block Broadway: Caller reports receiving phone calls from an unknown person soliciting sexual favors.

**2:18 p.m.**, Convention Center parking: Possible stolen car.

**Jan. 12**

**10:08 a.m.**, Avenue U: Caller reports a subject sleeping in his car in front of the golf course. They requested a welfare check. Police contacted the person who said they were fine and just napping.

**10:50 a.m.**, Broadway: Caller

requests contact information to report his employer who they say is not following federal tax laws and is selling restricted items to minors.

**12:36 p.m.**, 2100 block Lewis and Clark Road: Caller reports his tenant chased him down and threatened to injure him. He requested police contact.

**Jan. 13**

**1:06 a.m.**, 13th and Wahanna: Caller reports barefoot woman walking in the road. Police responding couldn't find her.

**1:16 p.m.**, Roosevelt between 15th and 16th Avenues: Elk herd reported.

**9:29 p.m.**, 1800 block S. Roosevelt: A person is arrested on a warrant.



**Jan. 7**

**4:09 a.m.**, 300 block Fourth Avenue: EMS call.

**5:52 a.m.**, 300 block Eighth

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## OREGON CAPITAL INSIDER

We're investing in Salem coverage when other news organizations are cutting back.



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### To test? Or not to test? WHEN TO GET A COVID-19 TEST

**You've had a known COVID-19 exposure but don't have any symptoms. What's next?**

If you were fully vaccinated with Pfizer or Moderna or had their booster within the last 6 months OR you received the initial J&J dose within the past 2 months:

- Testing is recommended at day 5.
- Wear a mask around others for 10 days. No quarantine needed.

If you were fully vaccinated with Pfizer or Moderna more than 6 months ago or have not had their booster within the last 6 months OR you received the initial J&J dose more than 2 months ago:

- Quarantine at home for 5 days.
- Testing is recommended at day 5.
- Continue to wear a mask for another 5 days.

**Regardless of vaccination status, if you test positive:**

- Isolate at home for 5 days. You must be fever-free for 24 hours without medication before leaving your home.
- If symptoms are resolved or improving, continue to wear a mask for another 5 days.



## (COVID-19 TESTING INFO



Oregon's beloved winter tradition of Plunging into frigid waters each winter to raise money and awareness for Special Olympics Oregon is back!



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JANUARY 29  
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Please remember county Emergency Rooms and Urgent Care Clinics are for treating emergencies and illnesses. We need to keep them open for those who need care. **They are not the place** for people simply looking for COVID testing.

If you need a COVID test or are wondering where to get one, please call the Clatsop County Public Information Call Center at 503-325-8500. They will triage your case and help you find the right testing resource.