



## Ernest John Standeven

August 15, 1932 - October 12, 2017

Ernest John Standeven, Sr., LTC (ret) US Army, 85, died at home in Scio on October 12, 2017 after a long illness.

He was born on August 15, 1932 to William E. and Louise M. Koskela-Thompson Standeven and raised in East Aurora, New York. After his mother died postpartum, he was raised by his stepmother Elisabeth M. Sowers Standeven. John graduated from East Aurora High School in 1950, where he played drums in marching band and orchestra. He was an active member of the Boy Scouts of America for ten years including a cross country trip to Philmont Scout camp.

John studied Forestry at the University of Maine at Orono on a ROTC scholarship. He was active in the university band, the Forestry club, the Outing club and was a life time member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

It was on an outing club weekend to Mount Katahdin that he met his future wife, Hazel Brown over a batch of instant butterscotch pudding they cooked all day. John and Hazel married in 1952. Their honeymoon was spent manning a US Forest Service fire tower at Five Mile Butte near Dufur, Oregon. The ranger declared that 'if they were still speaking when they came off the tower at the end of the summer, they would have a long married life.' They enjoyed 65 happy years together. In 1954, they graduated together from the University of Maine.

John was commissioned a second lieutenant in the US Army and reported for training at Fort Benning, Georgia. The first duty assignment was Schofield Barracks, territory of Hawaii, 25th Infantry Division as an Artillery Officer. The Army became home for 22 years, three continents and 15 duty stations. In 1966, he served with the 25th Infantry division in Vietnam. He retired from active duty in 1976 at Ft. Hood, Texas.

John's biggest passion in life was his service to the Boy Scouts of America. John's involvement as a lifelong scouter began when he volunteered to become Cub Master for his son Jack's Cub Scout pack. When John died, he had completed 70 rewarding years in the Boy Scouts of America. Over that time he served as Cub master, Scout Master of Troop 39 in Ft. Sheridan, Illinois, Troop Commissioner for many units, Wood Badge director at Camp Baker in Oregon, created the Buckskin Youth Leader training course, was Camp Melakwa director and served on many shooting sports staffs at Camps Baker, Melakwa, Baldwin and Pioneer. For ten years he was a Professional Boy Scout District Executive for the southern Oregon coast in the Oregon Trail Council and in Sacramento for the Golden Empire Council. Among John's many scouting awards are District Award of Merit, Distinguished Commissioner, Order of the Arrow Vigil Honors, Silver Beaver, and Wood Badge director. His contagious enthusiasm for scouting earned him the nickname of World's Oldest Cub Scout. Of all the scouting trails and campfires over the years, Camp Pioneer was always closest to his heart.

John's family followed him into scouting. Hazel was camp trading post manager, and merit badge counselor. His son, Jack, became a scout leader and shooting sports director at Camp Melakwa. Grandson John has long been on staff at Camp Baker. Three grandsons, Chris, Jesse and Ryan, earned Eagle Scout.

John had many other interests and hobbies besides scouting. He restored a red 1932 Ford "Woody", which was quite a popular ride with the local kids. He flew and crashed many RC airplanes.

He and Hazel enjoyed camping, canoe trips and trailer travel. They spent many years criss crossing the US and stopping for 50 cent picnic lunches with million dollar views.

He became an OSU Master Gardener and led the Albany Men's Garden Club. Those efforts helped to produce fresh fruit and vegetables for church and civic organizations who fed the hungry.

John was a lifelong black powder shooter. He built his own Pennsylvania rifle, a ship's cannon and a full size mortar that shoots cement filled dog food cans. He participated in many black powder rifle and cannon competitions. He enthusiastically blasted cannon salutes on 4th of July at his home in the country to the consternation of some of his neighbors.

He taught dozens of kids how to make and fly kites. He loved marathon games of Monopoly, corny jokes, laughter and having fun. We all miss you so much.

John is survived by his wife, Hazel; children Jack (Linda), Ellie (Michael) Kidd, and Bill (Heidi) Standeven; grandchildren, Christopher (Belinda) Kidd, Jesse Kidd and Ryan ('Becca) Kidd, William, Jr and Samantha Standeven, and John Standeven; two great-grandsons, Michael and Gabriel Kidd; sister, Madeline Haughn of North Carolina; brother Thomas Standeven of Rochester, New York; and eight nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two grandchildren, Joshua Standeven and Sarah Jane Kidd; sister-in-law Shin Standeven and brothers-in-law Ray Shelton and Charles Haughn.

If John's life could be described with music, we'd enjoy The Boy Scout March, Maine Stein Song, Sweetheart of Sigma Chi, The Artillery Caisson Song, I Come to The Garden and Taps.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. on Saturday, November 18, 2017 at Mt. Union Cemetery in Philomath.

To help send a scout to camp in memory of John make a check out to 'Cascade Pacific Council, Boy Scouts of America', John Standeven Campership Memorial, c/o Michael P. Egan, Cascade Pacific Council, 2145 SW Naito Parkway, Portland, Oregon 97201.

Special thanks to Scio First Responders, Dr. Lance Large, MD, Lesley Geil, nursing care, and faithful scouts and scouters.

# Events

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**NOV** **Graveside Service**01:00AM

**18**

Mt. Union Cemetery

Philomath, OR, US

# Comments

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“ To Hazel and family, my deepest condolences.  
Cathy Stoppel

**Catherine Stoppel** - November 13, 2017 at 09:06 PM