



Lavern M. Cary

December 1, 1932 - November 16, 2017

Lavern Martin Cary died peacefully Nov. 16, 2017. Lavern was born with twin sister Laverna Dec. 1, 1932 to Wilbur and Mattie (Stewart) Cary on the farm in Grant, Nebraska. His parents lost their farm to the Dust Bowl, migrating first to Idaho and then to Corvallis, OR in 1937. They raised five children in austerity, exemplifying characteristic ingenuity, self-sufficiency, and the value of family and community cooperation.

Lavern graduated from Corvallis High School in 1950 where he met his first wife JoAnne Jones. They soon married and started their family of five children. Together they enjoyed camping in the Metolius River/Scout Lake area, ballroom dancing, evening swims at the high school, large family gatherings and vacations on Payette Lake, ID.

Lavern joined the Corvallis Fire Department first as a volunteer then as a truck and ambulance driver. At 27, Lavern won Fireman of the Year and was appointed the first city Fire Marshall after saving the life of a teenager accidentally shot through the chest in a hunting accident. Lavern raised two Dalmatians (both Sparky) as mascots and for school fire prevention programs. Lavern was selected as a founding member of the Uniform Fire Code Committee which wrote the Uniform Fire Code; one of the origin documents for today's International Fire Code. When Lavern retired as Fire Marshal in 1982, he then began a 21 year career as a highly sought building code and fire safety consultant.

In 1984, Lavern and his second wife, Kathy, moved outside of Sherwood where he enjoyed raising llamas. The couple's love of water eventually led them to live along the North Santiam River. Later, Lavern retired in the Sublimity/Stayton area.

Lavern had a strong sense of civic responsibility; he was very active in Rotary, and he and Kathy were founding members of Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. Lavern enjoyed music, Irish and Native American history, geography and maps, wine and wineries, animals, and investing. He was an avid reader and amassed a large library. Lavern was known for his integrity, wisdom, common sense, dedication, and quick wit.

Lavern was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Orval and Frank, sister Nelma Buck Ziegler, and grandson, Owen Newlin. He is survived by twin sister Laverna Couey, sons Stewart and Steven, daughters Diane (Don) Vosburg, Theresa (Ron) Newlin, and Kathleen (Brent) Adams, former wives JoAnne Phillips and Kathy Cary, ten grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will take place 1:00 pm, Saturday, Mar. 3, 2018 at Adair Clubhouse, 6097 NE Ebony Lane, Corvallis, OR, 97330. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Stayton Area Rotary, PO Box 267, Stayton, OR. 97383. Please share your favorite memories at mchenryfuneralhome.com

Comments



“ I am going to be on a trip the day of Lavern's service, but I wanted to just share that Lavern was in my mind a wonderful quality man with an incredible heart for service. Even at his late years in life he was always the first to arrive and last to leave any Rotary project. He has a tremendous work ethic and spirit of volunteerism. He is greatly missed by our Rotary Club, and his spirit will remain with us during our future projects. Lavern was a great friend with a caring heart!

Michael Jaeger - February 12, 2018 at 02:56 PM



“ Your generous heart, good humor, breadth of knowledge and intelligence set you apart, and are dearly missed. Thanks for all the years you loved Mom, and for letting me share in your time on earth. Love to my other dad!!

Sue Smidderks Falkner - December 14, 2017 at 07:31 PM



“ In addition to being an outstanding Rotarian, Lavern was a good friend who provided me with some exceptional friendship and support when I needed it most. I will always remember his willingness to help.

Dick Morley - December 05, 2017 at 05:46 PM



“ I worked on various committees in Stayton Rotary. We worked on the Wine com; the dictionaries and a couple of others. I liked sitting next to him at lunch. He always had something of interest to talk about. I liked being his friend. I miss him.

Dave Valencia - November 22, 2017 at 08:01 PM



“ I am glad to have known Lavern through Stayton Rotary and to have witnessed the positive impact he made within the community. He was a great man and is truly missed. My heartfelt condolences to Lavern's family.

Carol Joyce - November 21, 2017 at 05:11 PM



“ Lavern was a good friend and Excellent Rotary member of the Stayton Area Rotary Club. If there was a project to be done, Lavern was the first to arrive and the last to leave until it was complete. Even at a ripe old age he was hard working and dedicated to whatever cause we had. He has much compassion for people and modeled a caring spirit that all of us could learn from. My prayers go out to Lavern's family.

Michael Jaeger - November 20, 2017 at 03:16 PM



“ Lavern Cary, retired fire marshal of Corvallis, Oregon Fire Department, passed away on Tuesday, November 14th. Lavern was a member of the original Uniform Fire Code Committee, which was appointed by the Western Fire Chiefs Association and the International Conference of Building Officials to create the Uniform Fire Code as a companion to the Uniform Building Code in 1970. The Uniform Fire Code was one of the legacy documents that provided the starting point for today's International Fire Code. Lavern remained active in code development for decades as a code official and later, as a consultant. He was loved and respected by the code development community and others who knew him for his sense of reason and fairness and his quick wit

Jeffrey Shapiro - November 18, 2017 at 10:11 PM



“ Lavern, you are no longer by my side but you are always in my heart. Mickey and I miss you and we love you to the moon and back a billion times. Thank you for all the wonderful years we had. I love you.

Kathy

Kathy Cary - November 18, 2017 at 07:52 PM



“ Don here! So sorry to hear of Lavern's passing. Would love to get back in contact.

Don Corson - March 05, 2018 at 05:41 PM