



Berton Edward Braly

November 4, 1926 - July 30, 2014

Berton Edward Braly, age 87, died on Wednesday, July 30, 2014, at Turner Retirement Homes in Turner, after a battle with kidney failure.

Bert was born Nov. 4, 1926, in Buffalo, a small town in Northwest Oklahoma — center of the devastating Dust Bowl of the 1930s with hardships further compounded by the crippling Great Depression. As a young boy, this was all Bert knew, so something as small as an apple split with his siblings was a real treat for which they were grateful.

At the age of 16, because of his exceptional academic record, Bert attended and later graduated from Northwestern State College in Alva, Oklahoma. During World War II, at age 17, he was selected to the elite U.S. Navy V12 program at Texas Christian University. After graduating back at Northwestern State, he taught high school for a year while being the same age as some of his students.

During medical school at the University of Oklahoma, he met a pretty nurse named June Eilers. After graduating, he reentered the Navy, serving during the Korean War. He was stationed in San Diego, where he and June were married.

Later they were stationed in Hawaii for two years, where their oldest children,

Susan and Paul, were born. In 1955, in Oklahoma, Bert joined his brother Knight's medical practice for one year. To enable his family to escape the dust and tornadoes, he accepted a job out West, where he worked in the infirmary at Oregon State College while falling in love with Corvallis and the surrounding area.

During the late 1950s, Bert specialized in anesthesia during his medical residency at Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle, Washington, where their younger children, Margaret and David, were born.

In 1960 Bert moved the family back to Corvallis. Bert practiced medicine at Good Samaritan Hospital, where he was the first and only anesthesiologist for years serving the Corvallis/ Albany area, and is credited with bringing cutting-edge equipment to the hospital. He also was a board member of the Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance company.

Bert retired in 1991, after 36 years of practicing medicine. He later lived in Philomath and at the Stoneybrook retirement center in Corvallis.

Bert, June and family were founding charter members of several Southern Baptist churches, serving as deacon, teachers and volunteers. They also helped build churches, both physically and by helping out whenever they could. In the late 1960s, Bert took his family on a medical missionary trip to Nigeria. He later served by teaching English to students during a mission to Poland.

Bert's passion was spending time with family. Many trips were taken — world travel, family reunions, Oregon coast, skiing, camping and hunting. Bert was the ultimate Beaver Believer for 54 years, supporting Oregon State University athletics through good times and bad.

Survivors include his four children, Susan (Neil) Loebner of West Linn, Paul (Jacquie) Braly of Terrebonne, Margaret (Kevin) Kerrigan of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and David (Heidi) Braly of Philomath; his sister, Shirley (David) McElhiney of Wichita, Kansas; his sister-in-law, Margarita Braly of Oklahoma; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Berton was preceded in death by his wife, June; parents, Murlin and Hattie Braly; brothers, Knight and Brooks Braly; and nephew, Alan Braly.

Berton Edward Braly: honest, intelligent, kind.

A private family service will be held.

In lieu of flowers, please make Berton E. Braly memorial contributions to Turner Retirement Homes in care of McHenry Funeral Home, 206 N.W. Sixth St., Corvallis OR 97330.