



Bob Wray

September 21, 1921 - June 29, 2008

Colonel Bob Wray, 86, who witnessed history as a United States Marine during three wars, died June 29 at Good Samaritan Hospital in Corvallis of complications following knee replacement surgery. A native of Corvallis, Bob was raised in King City, California before joining the Marines in 1942. He was commissioned a Naval Aviator in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1943. By the end of WWII, he commanded VMF(N) 542, a Night Fighter Squadron of F6F-5N Hellcats, in Yokosuka, Japan. After WWII ended he became an infantry officer. His first infantry command was Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment (C/1/1), a reserve company that came together in Camp Pendleton, California before deployment to the Korean War in 1951. The Marines of C/1/1 served with distinction in Korea and became an integral part of Marine history as one of the units that fought their way out of the Chosin Reservoir. He and the men of 'Loping Charlie Company' formed a bond that continues to this day through biannual reunions around the country. Bob retired from active service in 1973 after his last assignment as Commanding Officer of the Naval Reserve Officer Training Center at Oregon State University. He established residence in Corvallis with his wife, Joyce, where he pursued his love of the outdoors through fishing, hunting, boating, gold mining, and camping. He was an active member for years in the Rotary Club and The Retired Officers Club of Corvallis, and served as a municipal judge in Junction City. After losing Joyce in 2001, Bob moved into the Regent Retirement Residence, where he made many close friends. He was preceded in death by Joyce in 2001. Bob is survived by two sons: Pat and Debbie Wray of Corvallis and Tim and Maryann Wray of Vienna, Virginia. One daughter: Kamela and Scott Berglund of Corvallis as well as five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, with whom he had a very special relationship. Visitation hours are Monday, July 7th from 3:00pm till 5:00pm at McHenry Funeral Home and then again on Tuesday one hour prior to the funeral. Friends are invited to attend a funeral services scheduled for 1 p.m. on Tuesday, July 8 at McHenry Funeral Home in Corvallis. Internment with full military honors will be held at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland on Wednesday at 1 p.m. on July 9, 2008. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to either the Benton County Foundation scholarship or charity of your choice in care of McHenry Funeral Home 206 NW 5th St. Corvallis, OR. 97330

Tribute Wall

MW

“ *I have worked at the front desk at Dr. John Bugni's dental office here in Corvallis for almost 10 years and have always enjoyed my encounters with Col. Wray. He would come in for appointments and we would "banter" back and forth each visit about giving the hygienist or Dr. Bugni a hard time. We would discuss which one of us was more "trouble" than the other.*

But I also remember our discussions about his wife and family. He so enjoyed talking about the trip to the South Pacific with his whole family a few years ago. He brought Joyce in once and I was so impressed at how a "tough Marine" could be so gentle and thoughtful of her.

I am going to miss seeing him on those regular visits as will Dr. Bugni, Janelle, Anne, Brynn and our entire staff.

What good memories he must have provided to his children, grandchildren and great grand children. What a great legacy!

Our best to the entire family.

Mary Lynn Worrell - July 14, 2008 at 09:23 PM

NC

“ *'Lopin Charlie' Don't think so, with his long legs, it was mostly RUNNIN Charlie when he was leading the pack!!!! But Skipper you did keep us in shape, AND ready for whatever was in front of us, and to you, OUR THANKS!!!! SF NC*

Norm Callahan - July 09, 2008 at 08:00 AM

MS

“ *My condolences to the family of an American hero. Col. Wray will be resting at the Willamette National Cemetery with one of his men from Charlie Company, Corporal Arlee Gledhill (plot DO 172).*

Marcia Simpson - July 04, 2008 at 11:41 AM

SE

“ *Our Skipper, Our leader, our friend. A great Charlie Six. Semper Fi.*

Sgt.Maj. Ray England - July 03, 2008 at 10:52 PM

BY

“ I joined Charlie Co. after The Skipper had been relieved, but came to know and admire Bob Wray when we had opportunities to visit at the C-1-1 reunions. The reputation of Charlie Co., excellent by any standard, is due in no small measure to the leadership of Col. Wray, who while company CO, set the bar very high for expected performance, and his successors were motivated by his example to maintain those performance levels. The 2004 C-1-1 reunion was held in Portland, OR. I posted an album which includes some photos of Colonel Wray. Those interested can view the album by clicking this link:
<http://ImageEvent.com/colbb/c11reunion04>
Semper Fidelis,
BB Yarborough

Barkley B. Yarborough - July 03, 2008 at 03:11 PM

EO

“ He was my grandpa and he was the BEST. He is my hero.

Eliza Berglund (10 yrs old) - July 02, 2008 at 05:56 PM