



"Chris" Vernei Eugene Jeppsen

August 15, 1919 - July 31, 2016

Long time Corvallis resident, Chris Jeppsen, died peacefully at home, on July 31, 2016, of natural causes. He was 2 weeks short of his 97th birthday.

Chris was born in Goldfield, Iowa, the third of seven children. He spent his pre-school years in Goldfield, then his family relocated to Barrington, Illinois. In 1937, he graduated from Barrington High School and in 1941 he received his BS degree in Architectural Engineering from Iowa State University.

During the early years of WWII, he was employed by a shipyard in Virginia as a structural draftsman, mainly concerned with new aircraft carriers. At the end of 1944, he received a medical discharge from the Navy, just before he was to report for active duty.

In 1948, Chris located his family to Corvallis, Oregon. After serving for two years as an assistant professor in the Department of Architecture at Oregon State University, he established his own architectural practice. Among the many projects he and his partners completed over the next 45 years were, in Corvallis, Crescent Valley High School, Cheldelin Middle School, Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, and the Earth Sciences Complex at OSU and in Albany, Linn-Benton Community College and St. Mary's Catholic Church. He was always enthusiastic about the love of his work as an architect.

Among his civic duties were chairmanships for the State Capital Planning Commission, Corvallis Planning Commission, Children's Farm Home board and president of the Corvallis Chamber of Commerce.

Playing golf was his favorite recreational pastime. He maintained a single-digit handicap at the Corvallis Country Club, where he played for many years. Chris also enjoyed watercolor painting.

His first wife, Viola, died in January 1991, after a long illness. They were married for 48 years. In late 1992, he remarried his current wife, Gladys. They lived in Dallas, Oregon for several years and in 2010 moved to a retirement home near Portland, Oregon.

Chris is survived by his wife, Gladys, daughters Margie (Richard) Sleeter and Julie (Michael) Coe, step-daughters Janet (Rich) Wolf and Nancy (Paul) Vaughn, stepson Ron Barngrover, brothers Ken and Don Jeppsen and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Chris was preceded in death by his wife, Viola, sons, Jim and Steve and his sisters, Ellen, Esther and Evelyn and brother, Harold.

Remembrances may be made to a favorite charity. A celebration of Chris' life will be on October 1, 2016, at 11:30 am at McHenry Funeral Home, 206 NW 5th Ave., Corvallis, Oregon.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT 1. 11:30 AM (PT)

McHenry Funeral Home
206 NW 5th St.
Corvallis, OR

Tribute Wall

PA

“ Dear Jeppsen family,
I was very saddened to read about Chris's passing on July 31st. I regret that I was unable to visit Chris these past years since he left Corvallis but I could never find anyone here who knew of his whereabouts. I knew Chris very well because of our many, many rounds of golf here at the country club. We had a steady foursome of Chris, myself, Jack Goodman, and Lou Greenwood and sometimes Bruce Meyers. We had some great games with many laughs at each other. Chris often referred to me as Cary as there was a well known pro golfer on the tour named Cary Middlecoff who also was a dentist. Chris had such a beautiful golf swing and a great temperament that it was always a pleasure to have a game with him. When he did have a bad day on the course one would never know it by his behavior; always a gentleman. In 1968 he designed my dental office on Lincoln St. which I was always very proud of. Knowing Chris like I did and the kind of person he was, had a very positive affect on my own life for which I will always be grateful. I hope to attend his service on Oct. 1st.

Paul

Paul - August 15, 2016 at 01:09 PM

PP

“ My husband, CH2M engineer, Wayne Phillips worked frequently with Chris while he was still in Corvallis. He always admired Chris's work and enjoyed working with him.

Pat Phillips

Pat Phillips - August 03, 2016 at 04:20 PM