



Forrest Rutledge

April 17, 1935 - August 15, 2011

Forrest Lewis Rutledge peacefully entered into rest Aug. 15, 2011, surrounded by those he loved the very most.

Forrest bravely, courageously and with great grace, dignity and strength fought Parkinson's disease for many years. He was 76 year old.

He was born April 17, 1935, in Medford to Gerald Elvin and Phyllis Patricia Rutledge (both now deceased).

He is survived by his loving wife of more than 31 years, Vivian Lee Draper-Rutledge; his loving daughters Diane Marie Lucas of Sebastopol, Calif., and Patricia "Tish" Victoria Rutledge of Petaluma, Calif.; stepchildren Brenda Kay Smithee (Scott) of Gilroy, Calif., and Brian Keith (Dianne) Stephens of Palo Alto, Calif.; grandchildren Erin Faye Aschow, Tara Maria Frostick, Holly Lynn Stephens-Henry, Shannon Lynn Stephens, and Bryce and Serena Stephens; beloved brothers Gary Rutledge (Elayne) of Milwaukie, Bryce Rutledge (Deborah) of Merrill, Cleve (Mike) Rutledge (JoAnn) of Bend; sister Kathleen (Kay) Teague of South Bend; many nieces, nephews and cousins; and a community of wonderful friends.

He was predeceased by Ducky and Everett Ensor, his aunt and uncle, who were very dear and close to him.

He graduated from Klamath Union High School in 1953. He graduated from Oregon Institute of Technology in 1959 with a degree in electronics technology engineering. He began his career at Western Electric Company's central office in Klamath Falls as a telephone equipment installer, and worked for KOTI-TV

as a television broadcast engineer, as an Federal Communications Commission licensed first class engineer, and for Southern Pacific Railroad. In 1959, Forrest went to work for Hewlett-Packard Co., and worked there for 40 years. He had extensive engineering and functional management positions in manufacturing, quality assurance, marketing, research and development, and human resources, which included high-level management responsibilities for identifying and defining new product opportunities in the European markets and managing their successful introductions.

In his early years with the company, Forrest traveled extensively in the Soviet Union and Europe, often with his young family. Forrest took tremendous pride in his association with HP, and was with the company from its very early days. A resident of California for many years, he also lived in Loveland, Colo.; Stoke Poges and Bucks, United Kingdom; and settled in Corvallis in 1980.

He proudly served his country as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army Signal Corps from 1954 to 1956, and served in 24th Division Signal Company, supervising maintenance of telephone lines between U.S. 8th Army Headquarters and Panmunjom, North Korea, during peace talks.

He was involved in Benton County United Way, and was a member of Toastmasters International for many years. A journeyman wood carver, Forrest was involved in the development of a historic-style carousel for the Albany Carousel project.

He worked for Benton Habitat for Humanity, and volunteered as a contributor for the Stone Soup project, providing free meals to the homeless, impoverished and needy. Even when his illness made his mobility almost impossible, Forrest was at Stone Soup to help in any way that he could. He was truly a man of service throughout his entire life. Forrest was a member of First Christian Church of Corvallis.

A master woodworker, he built his family's log house. He loved gardening, was a wonderful cook and enjoyed genealogy; he had traced his family history to the early 1700s, and wrote a book about these findings. He also loved reading, and very much loved animals, especially his beloved pet cats.

He was against hunting, committed to all nonviolence, supported strict gun control, was anti-war, supported struggles for equal rights and poverty reduction, and was a lifelong registered Democrat supporting most liberal causes. Above all, Forrest was a very gentle, thoughtful, somewhat quiet man who gave much thought before he spoke. He loved his family and friends. He was considerate of all living creatures.

Forrest was dearly loved by many and will be deeply missed. He was our beloved and respected patriarch, our pater familias.

Special thanks to Bill and Jeanette Meier, Larry and Patty Dale, and Neal and Cherrie Reynolds. Your love and support to Forrest and Vivian made it possible for Forrest to participate in what was so important to him.

A memorial service shall take place at 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 19, at First Christian Church. Our family has requested that in lieu of flowers, contributions in Forrest's name be made to the National Parkinson's Foundation at parkinsons.org.