



## Francis J. Lawrence

May 12, 1925 - May 3, 2016

Francis “Whitey” Joseph Lawrence Jr., 90, passed away at his home on May 3, 2016. Francis was born May 12, 1925, in Glen Arm, Maryland, to Francis J. Lawrence Sr. and Mary I. Hager. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1942-1946. He married Betty Streett in 1951 and received his doctorate from the University of Maryland in 1965.

He moved with his family to Oregon in 1965 where he worked for the USDA as a plant breeder and geneticist until his retirement in 1990. He held an appointment to the Oregon State University Department of Horticulture. Whitey is credited with developing and releasing new breeds of strawberries, raspberries and blackberries.

Francis was active in the First United Methodist Church, Kiwanis, Meals on Wheels, Vina Moses and Fish. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and sports of any kind, just say when and where. During his retirement he was able to pursue his love of golf connecting with his many friends and coworkers at Trysting Tree Golf Club.

Francis was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers, Richard and Tom.

He is survived by his wife, Betty of 65 years; four children, Susan Wiggins

(Doug), David Lawrence (Robbin), Barbara Sweet (John) and Andrew Lawrence (Frannie); 14 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and one brother, Donald Lawrence

A memorial Service will be at 1 p.m. Monday, May 16, at the First United Methodist Church, 1165 N.W. Monroe, Corvallis.

Memorial donations may be made to the Corvallis First United Methodist Church Memorial Fund or the Kiwanis Foundation, P.O. Box 1602, Corvallis, OR 97339.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAY 16. 1:00 PM (PT)

First United Methodist Church  
1165 NW Monroe Ave  
Corvallis, OR

# Tribute Wall



“ I worked at the Corvallis Germplasm Repository back in the mid-80s and absolutely adored Whitey! I thought he was the funniest, nicest man ever. When I went away to graduate school, he told me, "Why do you want to study blackberries? The state of Oregon spends more money every year killing them than it does growing them." I went anyway! Incidentally, my sister-in-law, Virginia Norton, was the secretary for the USDA small fruits and nuts group in the early 80s. We're both very sad to hear that Whitey has passed away. He was one of a kind. Our condolences.

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**Margaret Norton** - May 09, 2016 at 12:15 PM

DR

“ What an amazing person Whitey was! Even though I haven't known him as long as some of his friends, I am thankful for the time I had, he meant so much to me. His kindness, all of the projects in Kiwanis that he organized, his interesting & entertaining stories. I am so sad for Betty and the family but know their faith will help them through this time.

*Debbi & Stan Rich*

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**Debbi Rich** - May 07, 2016 at 12:38 PM

KA

“ "Whitey" was so nice to pick my dad (Mel Westwood) up every month for the Hort Coffee club for so long... So sorry to hear he has passed, Barbara. He was a really sweet man. Sending prayers up for you and your family, Kathy

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**Kathryn** - May 06, 2016 at 02:59 AM

DS

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Thinking of you and your family at this difficult time.

*Doreen and Bernie Simoneit*

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**Doreen Simoneit** - May 05, 2016 at 01:02 PM