



## Gary Hill

October 10, 1933 - February 28, 2016

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Retired Fire Chief Gary Hill passed away on Feb. 28, 2016, at the age of 82.

Gary was born Oct. 10, 1933, on a farm in New Truxton, Missouri, to Hubert and Gladys (Jennings) Hill. In 1939, Gary with his mother and sister, moved to Vale where he attended first grade. In November 1939 they moved to Corvallis and attended Fairplay School. He attended junior high school where Central Park is now located for one week before it burn to the ground. He then attended Corvallis High School.

He married Lura Louise Whetstone on April 2, 1952, at Philomath Church of the Nazarene. They made their home in Corvallis where he joined the Corvallis Volunteer Fire Department. He worked at Detroit Dam and Leonard Logan Logging until he was drafted by the U.S. Army in 1953 during the Korean War. After basic training at Fort Lewis, he was deployed to Anchorage, Alaska, where his wife joined him. After being honorably discharged from the Army, he and his family returned to Corvallis where he rejoined the Corvallis Fire Department and again worked for Leonard Logan logging.

He was hired by Corvallis Fire Department in 1959; he was promoted to captain in 1965, battalion chief in 1970, assistant chief 1972 and fire chief in

1984. He was chairman of the 911 committee that organized all of Benton County Emergency Services and implemented 911 in 1984. He was a life member of the Oregon Fire Chief Association. After retiring from the fire service in 1986, he drove long hauls trucks until 1991.

He lived in Corvallis for 64 years before moving to Albany in 2003. He was an active member of the Church of the Nazarene in both Corvallis and Albany. He was involved in church building safety and maintenance programs. In 1997 he restored a 1953 GMC pickup that won several awards and trophies.

He is survived by his wife, Lura Loiuse; mother Gladys Wilson; sister Donna Nelson; Sons Randy, Rodney and Richard Hill; grandchildren Lance Hill, Aaron Byers, Rebbecca Hill-Clark, Stephanie Seits, Lacie Hill, Jonathan Hill, Jessica Willoughby, Shaina Manly, Dylane Provost, Cody Provost, and Corine and Chelsie Farmer; and 18 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, Hubert Hill; stepfathers Jesse Nordyke and Bill Wilson; stepmother Neil Hill; sisters Helen Campbell, Pearl Snyder and Nadyne Dickson; and brothers Lorence Nordyke, Michael Hill and Gayle Nordyke.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAR 5. 2:00 PM (PT)

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

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ *The fire service family is truly a wonderful thing to be a part of and we have lost a good man in Gary Hill. Through my husband's work and that my in-laws were the Hill's neighbors allowed me to come to know Gary. Quiet, funny and a pleasure to know.*

*Please accept my condolences to the family.*

*Sincerely,*

*Judy McCann*

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**Judy McCann** - March 02, 2016 at 12:12 PM

DV

“ *Farewell, Chief.*

*Thank you for the leadership, training, support and for the laughter, too.*

*You were truly a great guy.*

*"The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name, and the inheritance of a great example"*

*With sincerest condolences to the family.*

*Doug VanPelt*

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**Douglas VanPelt** - March 01, 2016 at 07:00 PM