



## Jay "Les" Killbourne

April 8, 1932 - May 23, 2017

Jay Leslie Kilbourne, who was known to his family as Les, was born in Columbus, Nebraska, on April 8, 1932, to Jay and Velma Kilborn. A doctor's mistake on his birth certificate, which was not discovered until his induction into the Army, caused a lifelong spelling difference in his last name that became a story to retell many times in his life.

His father, Jay, worked for the Rural Electric Association, erecting power lines around the Midwest. As a result, the family moved frequently and Les attended numerous schools in his early years.

The Second World War brought an end to the REA and the family moved to North Bend to join other Kilborn relatives. Les finished grade school then graduated from North Bend High School in 1950.

He worked for the Pepsi Cola Bottling Co. for a year and then entered the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953. He then returned to the bottling company for another year. He enrolled at the University of Oregon in 1954, graduating in 1958 with a Bachelor's of Science degree. He earned his Master's degree in 1963 from Oregon State University.

He married Elva Mae Beeman in September 1956.

In September of 1958, he began a 34-year career with the Corvallis School District, teaching first at Corvallis High School and later at Crescent Valley High School. He retired in June of 1992. Over the years he taught Biology, Life Science, Anatomy, and Physiology, Math, Driver's Education, and Driver's Training. His love for students was well known. Three sons were born to Les and Elva who also attended those schools.

Les and Elva also owned some rental property which Les considered his hobby.

He was an Elder and Trustee at Calvin Presbyterian Church for many years, where he taught Sunday and Bible School Classes, was a youth group leader with Elva and sang in the choir.

He is survived by his wife Elva; sons Randy (Sue) Killbourne of Shady Cove, Gregg (Denise) Killbourne of Scappoose, and Rob Killbourne of Salem; daughter Lisa Killbourne of Corvallis; 11 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren; a brother, Charles Kilborn of Lebanon; and a sister, Nancy Castillo of Eugene.

In 1993 John and Jenny Xu and son Andrew entered our lives and have become a part of the family in heart and spirit. Les had numerous former students who greeted him warmly on each meeting and many who maintained contact with him. He liked people and enjoyed his students and tenants as well as his many friends. He would seek out people in a gathering who seemed to be on the fringes and needed someone to talk to.

Les was a man who did not make commitments lightly; once made they were solid. Thus was in his faith in Jesus Christ and his commitment to the church. He will be missed by the many that knew and loved him.

A memorial service will be held in his honor at 3 p.m. Saturday, June 17, at Calvin Presbyterian Church, 1736 NW Dixon St., Corvallis.

Memorial gifts may be made to Calvin Presbyterian Church and designated for the Asante Kids School Program in Uganda or Food for the Hungry.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUN 17. 3:00 PM (PT)

Calvin Presbyterian  
1736 NW Dixon St.  
Corvallis, OR 97330

# Tribute Wall

PW

“ So sorry for your loss.

*I lost my mom in May too. In going through the old Corvallis house we discovered several copies of a book that Jay and my father Cliff Wirfs co-authored; "Getting a Drivers License in Oregon" in 1967. As a special education teacher at Corvallis High, my dad had a passion for helping the less capable to succeed in our society. Their book was full of diagrams, and even had a few cartoons here and there, which was a groundbreaking idea at the time. (A year or two later was when the Oregon drivers manual began including diagrams.) I'm currently looking into how to submit a copy to the library of congress for preservation. I don't know if they will take it or not.*

*Peter L Wirfs, CVHS class of 1975*

*petwir@comcast.net*

*503-580-9008*

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**Peter L Wirfs** - June 10, 2017 at 10:20 AM

WS

“ *My sincere sympathies to Elva and his entire family. What a kind good man Jay was.*

*Jay and I were career science teachers in the Corvallis District and crossed paths numerous times professionally. I taught with Jay one year, the opening year, at CVHS.*

*We were both trying to establish programs in our respective areas, biology for Jay and chemistry for me. Jay stuck and I was sent packing! (I did a one year substitution for Jack Whitney.) Jay had a very gentle way with kids and was a very effective biology teacher. We worked together often and always shared appreciative greetings. He was an icon to me in the district and will be missed. We have lost a very good man. But, celebrate his doings...not his undoing. He lives in the youth of our community.*

*My love to you all,  
Sincerely,*

*Wayne Spletstoser and Marjorie.*

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**Wayne Spletstoser** - June 06, 2017 at 02:13 PM

JM

“ To family and friends I extend my sincere condolences on the passing of your loved one.

*I have very fond memories of Mr. Kilbourne at Corvallis High School in 1962. I was in his biology class, twice. The first time as a silly boy crazy sophomore who didn't pass, the second time as a somewhat more serious junior taking the class over again. I'm sure it was a relief to him when I finally "got it" and passed.*

*It was a pleasure to see him when he occasionally visited with us during some of our class reunions.*

*Judy Jacob McCann, class of 1964*

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**Judy Jacob McCann** - June 06, 2017 at 10:31 AM