

John Herbert Landers, Jr.

January 24, 1921 - March 7, 2013

John H. Landers, Jr., 92, passed away peacefully with his daughter at his side on Thursday, March 7, 2013 at the Mennonite Village in Albany, OR. A memorial service with military honors will be held Saturday, April 6th at 1 pm at the Lakeside Center at Mennonite Village. Interment will be in May at the Springfield National Cemetery/MO Veterans Cemetery.

John was born on Jan. 24, 1921, in Cedar County, Missouri, to J. Herbert and Ruth (Kirby) Landers. He attended Dadeville and Stockton schools, then the University of Missouri, graduating in 1942, six months early to be commissioned in the Army to support the war effort. His primary service was in Europe as a Forward Artillery Observer. Of particular note was an engagement with a German Panzer tank division on Nov. 25, 1944, at Schalbach, Alsace, France. 1Lt Landers was instrumental in directing artillery fire on the massed enemy unit about 75 yards in front of himself. The attack was repulsed and Lt Landers received the Distinguished Service Cross and the British Military Cross for his valor. For other combat he also received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Post-war, he continued his military service as a member of the U.S. Army Reserves in Corvallis, retiring as a lieutenant colonel after a combined 37 years of active and reserve service.

After the war, John returned to the University of Missouri for a Master's degree and was subsequently hired by Oregon State University's Department of Animal Science in 1950. Including the year taking course work at Kansas State University for his PhD, he served 27 years at OSU principally as a State

Extension Livestock Specialist, traveling across Oregon helping farmers and ranchers. He also served as a livestock judge at numerous county fairs and the Oregon State Fair for many years.

John also ran the annual sheep shearing school at OSU for decades, as well as doing custom shearing in the central Willamette Valley. In many cases, he received the wool as part of his payment, using it as inventory for his and wife Mary's Old West Wool Company. Concurrently he served as secretary of the American Romney Breeders Association for 37 years.

He had a life-long passion for gardening, sharing his expertise as a Master Gardner in Benton and Linn Counties. Visitors could always count on receiving berries, cherries or other in-season produce as thanks for stopping by the house. John was also well known for his outstanding salmon bakes using the open pit method. He and Valley Catering were the folks to call to make festive occasions deliciously memorable.

He was proud of his service as a Kiwanian, particularly his long record of continuous attendance which was sadly interrupted by his stroke in 2010. Within Kiwanis he was a driving force in the annual Christmas greenery sales and pancake breakfasts. He also enjoyed fund raising for the Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

He received many honors and awards, among them were Kiwanian of the Year (1980), Linn County Master Gardner of the Year (1991), Corvallis Senior First Citizen (1993), Honorary Future Farmers of America Degree, and Grand Marshall of the Veteran's Day Parade (Albany, 2007).

Survivors include son Steve (Sherry) of Centralia, MO; daughter Patricia Hollenbeck (Le) of Salem; and son Dave (Vicki) of Wendell, ID; grandchildren Mike Landers, Megan Landers (Kevin Uptmor) and Erin Landers; great-grandchildren Brekken Mower and Ashton Landers; and sister-in-law Elizabeth Landers.

In addition to his parents, John was predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Mary (Hanna) Landers; his sister, Mary Virginia Niemeyer; and his brother

George Landers.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to the LTC John H. Landers, Jr. Purple Heart Scholarship which benefits of OSU ROTC cadets. Contributions checks should be made payable to the Benton County Foundation (memo Landers) and mailed to: Benton County Foundation, ATTN: Mike Rainbolt, P.O. Box 911, Corvallis, OR 97339. Alternatively, a donation in John's memory to Kiwanis, Pastega Guesthouse or Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis would also be appropriate and appreciated.

Tribute Wall



“ *McHenry Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John Herbert Landers, Jr.*



McHenry Funeral Home - March 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

WY

“ *Dear Landers Family,
John actually retired the year I started at OSU (1977), but he soon he became known to me in my Extension career with the Dept. of Crop and Soil Science. He was good man, and it was a beautiful memorial service you planned to honor him with yesterday. I certainly hope that McHenry Funeral Home will soon post the video on their web site. Your family was blessed to have so many years with John in your lives. I know your memories of him will eventually efface your tears and bring many smiles as you reflect on a life well-lived.*

*Bill Young (Professor Emeritus, Extension Seed Production)
william.c.young@oregonstate.edu*

William C. Young - April 07, 2013 at 11:14 AM

LL

“ One of my proudest memories is "apprenticing" alongside John at his famous NW Indian-style salmon bakes. I would wear some of my native Lakota Sioux regalia and folks would know they were experiencing something very authentic. The special occasion my own workplace hosted, at which John presided over the salmon pit, is still talked about 12+ years later. John, you've bequeathed quite a legacy of service to so many. Thank you! --Laurie LaPointe

Laurie LaPointe - April 04, 2013 at 01:07 PM

BH

“ My husband Dan was a fellow Kiwanian, and when he was at Corvallis Manor recovering from hip surgery, John called me to ask what the club could do for Dan. I was spending 12 hours a day at the Manor with Dan, so I told John there was something they could do for me: I could use an hour break at noon to do errands or go for a walk, so it would be nice if someone could come and stay with Dan during that time. John arranged for someone from the club to be there every day for 12 days - he himself came at least twice. That was one of the nicest things anyone had ever done for me. Thanks, John!

You all have my deepest sympathy.

Betsey Harrington

Betsey Harrington - April 04, 2013 at 10:55 AM

DF

“ Met John and Mary forty years ago at a family event. If you didn't feel like family from the first time you met them it was your fault. Anyone who spent time with them, no matter how little was better for the experience. You could guarantee a liveley conversation no matter the topic. Ten years ago I was in Reno and met a ranching family from Eastern Oregon and after a short discussion concerning sheep John's name came up. Without a doubt his reputation preceded almost anywhere when it came to agricultural. It was a privelege to have spent with both John and Mary.

Don and Jill Fehr - April 02, 2013 at 10:21 PM

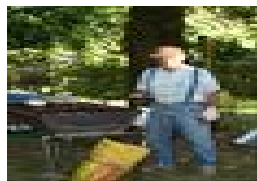
MB

“ The first time John walked into the Valley Restaurant and asked for some potato salad, I thought my Dad had come to visit. John not only looked like my Dad, but also had many similarities to his personality. It was great working with John throughout the years. We had a lot of great times and met many people. In a way, he helped me stay connected to my family to. John will always be part of life here. My thoughts are with your family
With sympathy and warm regards,
Mary Bentley

Mary Bentley - April 02, 2013 at 09:06 AM

MM

“ 1 file added to the album Remembering John



Mike & Maxine - March 27, 2013 at 01:53 PM

MM

“ 1 file added to the album Remembering John



Mike & Maxine - March 27, 2013 at 01:46 PM

RC

“ 4 files added to the album New Album Name



rob carter - March 27, 2013 at 11:38 AM

TG

“ Steve and Landers Family,
I did not know Mr. Landers as well as I knew your mother - Mary. I worked for her at OSU Food Technology Department in the 1960's. She was a lovely person, strong and hard working with an ever present love of family and a wonderful sense of humor. I remember that summer warmly. Did not know your father nearly as well but met him and we visited on a couple of occasions. He was a strong and determined man with a variety of sound leadership qualities. I had great respect for him. Both your parents are "salt of the earth" and will be missed a great deal. Be well, Tom Guss

Thomas O. Guss - March 22, 2013 at 05:01 PM

PH

Thank you for sharing your recollections of mom and dad. It means a lot to read and remember their impact on others. Pat

patricia landers hollenbeck - March 27, 2013 at 07:59 AM