



Lee Heckathorn

June 2, 1932 - June 21, 2008

Lee Heckathorn of Brownsville died Saturday at Good Samaritan Hospital in Corvallis.

Lee was born in Buhl, Idaho to Herman Glen and Rena (Crain) Heckathorn. Lee moved to Oregon with his family in June, 1940 where he attended and graduated from Rainer Union High in 1950.

Lee enlisted in the Air Force November 26, 1952. After completing a partial apprenticeship and set-up journeyman at the Union Pacific railroad in Portland, Lee served a 3-year tour of duty in Tokyo attaining the rank of Staff sergeant.

Lee married Leslie Marion Furer June 27, 1953 in St. Helens, Oregon. Lee was honorably discharged July 25, 1957.

Lee enrolled at OSU in 1957 and received his Bachelor of Science in 1961 and his Master of Education in 1969. After completing requirements for his teaching certificate, Lee taught in Prineville, Philomath and Central Linn Schools from 1961 until 1980, when he retired.

With other 6th grade teachers, Lee established the first Outdoor School program in Central Linn Schools. After retirement Lee began remodeling “fixer-upper” homes, learning carpentry as he went along using skills he acquired helping relatives as a young man. He also built two new homes and managed them as rentals while living in Brownsville for the past 41 years. Lee loved woodworking making model cars and many gifts for relatives and family. Lee belonged to the Lebanon Elks, and OSU Alumni Association.

Survivors include wife Leslie, daughters Debra Romines of Faiview, OR; Tonja Dickson of Albany, OR; son Rodney of Northern California; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Memorial donations may be directed to a charity of choice. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

Tribute Wall

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“ To the family of Lee Heckathorn: Those who have died will never be forgotten. Their sacrifice for their country will live on forever in the hearts of all who cherish freedom. Remembering your loved one.
Condolences,

Lower Columbia DAR Ladies - July 10, 2008 at 09:37 PM

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“ Mr. Heckathorn was my 6th grade teacher in 1976. He is one of my favorites still. I have told my own son about his class. I still have the wooden footstool he helped me make. I have thought of him often through the years and will continue to do so. My prayers are with the family and friends of Mr. Heckathorn.

Carrie (Kinder) Swayngim - July 03, 2008 at 01:35 AM