



## Leonard Bilsland

October 5, 1919 - January 21, 2012

Leonard Maxl Bilsland passed away Jan. 21, 2012, of age-related complications of pneumonia.

He was born Oct. 5, 1919, in Glen Elder, Kan., to parents Lena (Silvey) and Virgil Bilsland. Len moved to Oregon in 1934, graduating from Monmouth High School in 1938. He entered the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942, spending two years in the European Theater of Operations and the China/Burma/India Theater as a PBY pilot with the 1st & 7th Emergency Rescue Squadron. Len earned the Distinguished Flying Cross with Air Medals for his service.

In 1945, Len married Barbara Scholl of Monmouth at Stewart Field, West Point, N.Y. They recently celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary.

Len is survived by Barbara at the family home; daughters Janeen (Jason) Manney of Medford and Gayle Bilsland, DVM, of Phoenix, Ariz.; a son, Douglas (Mardi Vaughan) Bilsland of Corvallis; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

After his service, Len owned and operated the Chevron/Standard service station at Kings Road and Monroe Avenue for 29 years before purchasing the Mobil station in Monmouth and moving to Monmouth in 1975. Len retired in 1983. They returned to Corvallis in 1990.

Over the years, Len was active in the Moose bowling league, the Marysville Golf Club, an archery club and the Independence Rotary Club. He was a past president of the Benton County Gas Dealers Association. As a couple, Len and Barbara began square-dancing in 1961, and were active in several clubs

for many years.

Leonard was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Arlene Chapman of Salem; and his beloved cat, Holly.

A military burial will take place at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland. In lieu of flowers, remembrances in Len's name can be made to Heartland Humane Society, 398 S.W. Twin Oaks Circle, Corvallis, OR 97333.

A memorial gathering in his honor will be announced at a later date.