



Rex Parnell

February 28, 1929 - March 3, 2015

Rex Parnell, 86, of Corvallis passed away peacefully at home on March 3, 2015.

Rex was born in Pondera, Montana on February 28, 1929 and raised by his mother and step-father Malina and Max Broderson. He spent his childhood and youth in Cutbank, Montana. After high school he worked for a short time in the Montana oil fields before enlisting in the United States Army and fighting for his country in the Korean War. Volunteering to fight on the front-lines and being wounded in battle, Rex then spent 18 months recuperating in military hospitals in Tokyo and San Francisco ultimately receiving a Purple Heart, Bronze Campaign Star and United Nations Service Medal. As his condition improved he volunteered for hospital work as a medical aide and loved the opportunity to serve his fellow soldiers in this way. Upon his release he traveled north to Philomath, Oregon to visit family and, while there, met and married his wife Carole Burrig on November 24, 1954. Rex and Carole settled in Corvallis where they have lived for the past 60 years and where they raised their two lovely daughters Cindy and Patty.

Known for his work ethic and woodworking skills, Rex managed Tum-A-Lum Lumber in Corvallis for many years until his retirement in 1995. People of great faith, Rex and Carole attended the Corvallis Evangelical and the Suburban Christian churches in Corvallis.

Rex enjoyed woodworking, building his own home and spending many hours in his wood shop making delightful, beautiful gifts for family and friends. An outdoor enthusiast, he also loved camping and fishing with his family.

Beloved by many friends and family Rex will be remembered for his faith, humor, wit, hard work and good nature as well as his great capacity for love and kindness.

Rex is survived by his wife Carole, daughters Cindy of Albany and husband Buster, Patty of Central Point and husband Scott, his grandchildren Dustin and Heidi, Heidi's husband Brandon and three delightful great-grandsons. He was preceded in death by his two sisters and one brother.

At least a thousand times Rex would read the morning paper, read the obituaries and say "Well, it's a good day. I'm not in them!" Today is a sad day for us but a happy day for you Dad!

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 7th at the Suburban Christian Church in Corvallis with reception following.

Tribute Wall

GP

“ Our condolences go out to the Parnell's on the passing of this great man. I will remember Rex for how giving of a man he was during his life here on earth. My brother and I used to stay with Rex and Carole when Mom and Dad were out of the state, and our stays with the Parnell's were pure joy! Rex would show us how to make beautiful pieces of furniture from wood. He'd also let us ride his lawn mower around the property, which as a kid was like driving a car. We mourn Rex's passing, and pray from "Mama Mo" (Carole) and the rest of the family during this difficult time. We love you Parnells!

Sincerely,

Gary & Laura Powell

Gary Powell - March 17, 2015 at 12:15 AM

GP

“ We regret the passing of Rex and not being able to attend his memorial as we were out of the country. He and Carole were dear to us. They were such a unit, hard to speak of one without immediately thinking of the other. Carole was the love of his life and his devotion of her was a beautiful thing. Glad to know we will see him in heaven as he loved the Lord Jesus Christ just as we do. God be with the family during such a time of loss.

Gary and Carolyn Powell
Allyn, Wa.

gary powell - March 14, 2015 at 12:55 PM

WG

“ I worked with Rex when at Tum-A-Lum Lumber when I was a young man growing up in Corvallis, It's been over 40 years since I've seen Rex but I remember that he was always very kind to the to us. Reading his obituary I realize that he was really a special person and it was such a privilege to have worked with him and know him. I'm older now and learned that the real life heroes are the folks like Rex who do their duty to God and country and then talk care of their families fellow man. Korea was certainly the forgotten war, I worked with Rex and I did not even know he was a disabled war veteran. My brother told me this weekend, when we were talking about nice Rex was and great it was to work with him. I know Rex has gone on to his just rewards and is in heaven. Take care Mr. Parnell, job well done. I'll never forget you.

William Gell - March 09, 2015 at 11:09 AM



“ Here is a lin to the Memorial Service held on Saturday.

<http://youtu.be/mY4KqBDa5uM?t=18m6s>

David Taylor - March 09, 2015 at 09:08 AM

BF

“ So sorry to hear that Rex has passed. I have great childhood memories of Rex and his family. I remember humor - lots of it!! What a nice man who loved his family. I remember the gorilla at Halloween coming out of the carport - lots of screams!! What a fun innocent time - I remember the nickname he gave me - Squeaky - not sure he remembered by actual name but that is ok - I liked Squeaky!! My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Barb Filippini - March 06, 2015 at 10:14 PM

DS

“ *PS: Danny still has the book shelf and the little dresser that Rex made in his wood working shop for Bobby's bedroom. It's still in great shape and still being used with loving care :-)*

Danny and Sherry - March 06, 2015 at 06:46 PM

DS

“ *Dear Family, we are so very saddened with losing Rex. Even though it's been a long time since we've had the honor to visit with him, his memory lives on in our hearts. What a kind and giving man he was. Our loss, Heaven's gain....love and hugs to all of you, Danny and Sherry*



Danny and Sherry - March 06, 2015 at 06:22 PM