



## Rolland V. Gray

January 20, 1927 - July 20, 2014

Rolland V. Gray, 87, of Corvallis passed away with his family by his side.

He was the second of five children born to John and Louise Gray, living in Chula Vista, California. The family moved to Chewelah, Washington, where Rolland spent summers during high school working at several fire lookouts in the Northeast Washington area.

Upon graduating from Chewelah High School, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1945. His service took him to northern China, where he served with one of the last remaining units there prior to the Communist takeover. He was called back into the service to Korea for 14 months during that war. Rolland didn't say much about that time of his life, only that it was cold when he got to Korea and cold when he left.

After returning home, he married Mary Jean Whitten of Colville, Washington, in 1952. Together they lived in Colville, where Rolland found full-time employment as an administrative clerk for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the national wildlife refuge southeast of town. In 1965, he was transferred to a new refuge south of Corvallis which later was named William L. Finley NWR. There he worked until his retirement from the government in 1982.

After leaving the refuge, he worked for 10 years as a maintenance man for

Knoll Terrace Park in the Lewisburg area, until his second retirement at age 65.

He was preceded in death by his sisters Francis Nussbaum and Alice Murphy. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mary Jean; son Dale Gray of Albany; daughter Sandra Bearden of Tulsa, Oklahoma; grandkids Benjamin Gray (Becky) of Corvallis, Candice Lawrence (Chris) of Sweet Home, Travis Gray (Vanessa) of Portland and Fancy Hallmark of Tulsa; siblings Bonnie Cresto of Washington and Thomas Gray of Arizona; and four great-grandchildren.

Those who knew Rolland all would say that he was a man of few words and a loving heart. In that spirit, he requested that no formal services be held.

The family suggests, in lieu of flowers, that a contribution to the American Cancer Society be made in his memory. He will be privately laid to rest in Colville.