



Steve R. Rasmussen

September 12, 1927 - March 11, 2018

Steve Richard Rasmussen, 90, passed away at his home on March 11, 2018, with Margaret, his loving wife of 44 years, at his side.

He was born on Sept. 12, 192 in Chino, California.

He graduated from San Diego High School and joined the US Army, where he served during World War II and immediately after the war in Japan as part of the US Occupational Forces.

He married Jane Carol Smith in 1945. They had three children, Patrick, Jill and Susan.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Science from the University of Utah and taught school in La Sal, Utah. Moving his family to Henderson, Nevada, he taught science at Las Vegas High School.

He completed a Master's Degree in physics from Oregon State University, then taught physics at Corvallis High School from 1956 to 1971. While there, he went on a sabbatical to Denmark in 1968-1969 for the Danish Teacher's Institute, helping the Danish physics teachers to learn more effective teaching methods.

In 1971, he moved to Linn Benton Community College to teach physics. After 22 years at LBCC he retired in 1993.

He married Margaret Fay Hartell in 1974.

Steve received the Distinguished Faculty Award from LBCC. He was active in the American Optical Society, and in the American Association of Physics Teachers.

He was a member of the Elks Lodge for 38 years.

He had a bright and lively mind and many interests, and was constantly reading and learning. He was a ham radio operator, enjoyed being a pilot, and loved the outdoors. He sailed, camped, gardened, and enjoyed birdwatching.

He did beautiful cabinetry and woodwork and built the two houses in Corvallis he and his family lived in. He learned to cast metal and silver and made many lovely pieces of jewelry. He loved listening to classical music and the golden oldies of his generation.

He was a dedicated teacher and maintained lifetime contact with many of his students.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Lillian Marie Zint; father, Oscar Lund Rasmussen; and sister, June Kathryn R. Cox.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret Fay Hartell Rasmussen; children, Patrick (Eileen) Rasmussen, Jill Rasmussen, and Susan (Stanford) Young; grandchildren, Danielle, Shadrach, Hiram, Matthew, Seth, Katrina, and Forrest; nine great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews. He was generous and loving to his family and was so proud of their accomplishments.

His funeral will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 16 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1205 Walnut Blvd., Corvallis. Visitation will be from 10 to 10:45 a.m. at the church

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to your favorite charity.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **16**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
1205 NW Walnut Blvd.
Corvallis, OR 97330

Funeral Service

MAR **16**. 11:00 AM (PT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
1205 NW Walnut Blvd.
Corvallis, OR 97330

Tribute Wall

RS

“ I was a student of Steve’s and he was my best friend. Times for me were tough. I was privileged enough to spent more than a handful of meals with him and Margaret. I’ve never forgot the dominos he used for his home address. He was a dear friend, Mentor and teacher that was very highly respected by me and those that had the privilege to be taught Physics from this incredible man! I love you Steve and Thankyou for all your help and compassion, Rodger Sellin

Rodger Sellin - May 28, 2024 at 06:01 PM

RP

“ My father OSU professor Ivan Pratt introduced me to Steve long before I was in his physics class in 1967-68. Professor Pratt was teaching classes for secondary school teachers and Steve was there. Not only was Steve my physics teacher, he was also our CHS Amateur Radio Club staff advisor K7POT. That was a wonderful experience under his guidance, including getting my amateur radio license WA7FFS. We had a club station in his office area, an antenna on the roof, and we started a very successful class break time snack selling activity. We built a custom snack cart, purchased supplies, restocked and counted the cash. A wonderful extracurricular learning experience. Steve pulled me thru physics, I finished OSU with a EE degree and spent 36 years in the communication engineering field as well as continuing my ham license K4XF here in Fort Lauderdale. Steve was elite. RIP.

Richard Pratt - June 02, 2018 at 09:28 PM

PR

“ Steve was an outstanding Physics instructor and fun to be around. He cared about the students and he was always available to help when I was struggling. He will be missed. Condolences to his family. Chairs.

Pat Renouf

Pat Renouf - March 24, 2018 at 01:08 PM

 Nancy Ray

“ Steve was very special to our family. He was very caring and kind. We will miss him so much. We have wonderful memories of times spent with him. He has been an inspiration for my family.

Nancy Ray - March 20, 2018 at 04:18 PM

JT

“ Steve, so sad to hear that you have left us. You were such a strong supporter and life long member of our Credit Union. I will miss our conversations and miss seeing you in the office and our annual meetings. From the entire staff, your memory is with us and we will be thinking of you often.

Joe and all of us at Benton County Schools CU...

Joe Tofte - March 19, 2018 at 12:31 PM

KG

“ I was saddened to read that Steve has died. I had him as a physics instructor at LBCC in the early 80's. I was not sure what I wanted to do with my life at that point, and took his physics class to explore science and engineering possibilities. Steve made class and subject fun, challenging, and I believe that his class helped turn me into the field of engineering. He was a great instructor and a great man.

Kevin Groom - March 15, 2018 at 11:56 AM

SS

“ *It has been a great pleasure to have Steve as a neighbor. We've enjoyed knowing him these past 7 years and will miss visiting with him. He had a great spirit and touched the lives of many people over the years he lived in Corvallis. Although he has gone home to the Lord, his memory will live on within our community*



We send our prayers to Margie and the family.

Scott Southard and Sarah Sheldrick

Scott Southard - March 13, 2018 at 07:22 PM