



Vernon Lee Bowlby

March 26, 1931 - January 11, 2015

Vernon L. Bowlby of Corvallis passed on to be with the Lord on Sunday, January 11, 2015, surrounded by his loving family in his home. He fought a long and courageous battle with LMS cancer. A celebration of life will be held at Suburban Christian Church in Corvallis on Saturday, January 17 at 2:00 PM.

He was born on March 26, 1931, in Constantine, Michigan to Galen and Madge Bowlby. He was the third child and the only one to be born in Michigan. His family returned to Hood River, Oregon in 1932. He graduated from Hood River High School in 1949. He graduated second in his class from Armed Forces Leadership School while serving in the Army from 1950-53. His first assignment as a Corporal was teaching weaponry mechanics, where he realized his deep love of teaching.

He married Ruth Ann Grady in Goldendale, WA on September 2, 1956. They both attended Behnke -Walker Business College in Portland before moving to Eugene, where he graduated from the University of Oregon in 1960. He worked in Portland for three years for Touche, Ross, a national CPA firm and passed the CPA exam in 1960.

Vernon and Ruth's first daughter Catherine was born in 1959, followed by another daughter, Barbara in 1962. The family moved to Corvallis that year, where he opened his CPA practice and also started a 10-year teaching career at Oregon State University. Vernon and Ruth's son, Bruce, was born in 1964.

Vernon was passionate about bettering the lives of individuals through good tax planning, and he encouraged his employees to develop their careers. Vernon authored a book on Christmas Tree Taxation in 1981 and traveled across the states giving conferences. He eventually sold his CPA practice to an employee and retired for seven years, but he began doing tax work again and continued to work into the last months of his life. Vernon was an inspiration to many and always told his children and grandchildren, "The world is your oyster," supporting and encouraging them to achieve their goals in educational and personal endeavors.

Vernon and Ruth loved to travel and visited all 50 states and over 40 countries. He was a member of Corvallis Country Club and loved playing golf and bridge. He was also a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary and served as an Elder at Calvin Presbyterian Church. Vernon was a Beaver fan and had season tickets to the OSU football games for over 50 years. He was a lifelong adventurer and accomplished his childhood goal of climbing both Mt. Adams and Mt. Hood. Vernon kept active into his 80s, golfing, hiking and skiing with his son and grandchildren. He accomplished his long time goal of writing his autobiography, *A Miraculous Journey: The Life of Vernon L. Bowlby*, in October 2014 with the help of family and friends.

Vernon was a kind, generous, and loving man who lived a vibrant life filled with meaning. He touched so many lives and he will be greatly missed. He treasured his family and attended every possible event for his six grandchildren. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Ruth; brother Robert (Carol) Bowlby of Cannon Beach; sister Lillian Magee of Corvallis; daughter Catherine (David) Cudo of Corvallis; granddaughter Jennifer (Christian) Green and great-grandson, Adam, of Bend; daughter Barbara (Steve) Wilson of Idaho, granddaughter Kimberly Wilson of New York and grandson Andrew Wilson of Sisters; son Bruce and granddaughters, Elise, Angie, and Danielle Bowlby and their mother Edith Bowlby all of Corvallis and a large number of nieces and nephews and extended family. He was preceded in death by his parents, older brother, Wayne and younger sister, Nancy Worth. Donations in

his memory may be made to Benton Hospice Service, The Salvation Army, or Suburban Christian Church.

Tribute Wall

CR

“ Dear Ruth and family, I just received word of Vern's passing. It has been such a long time when I worked for Vern at the CPA firm. I think back to those days often and of the graciousness of Vern to give me a start in the accounting industry. The words said in his Eulogy certainly rang true to me. My heart goes out to you and all of the family. He is in the hands of our Lord. May that be true for all of us when we arrive to the day of our departure here on earth. I wanted mostly to say that his memory lives on with people like me who only spent a short few years working with him. May the family revel in his accomplishments and his love towards others. Blessings to all of you, Chuck Reppas

Chuck Reppas - January 20, 2015 at 10:59 AM

NB

“ Ruth, please accept a Canadian hug from Judy and I. We enjoyed your company and hospitality at the reunion a few years ago. Vernon was a precious man and we know you will miss him dearly. Prayers to to you and the family.

*Judy & Neil Bowlby
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada*

Neil Bowlby - January 19, 2015 at 12:40 PM

AB

“ Vernon was one of the cheeriest and most interesting people I've ever met. His generosity, sharing of both material and spiritual gifts, and encouragement to others to learn and grow were unique attributes of a phenomenal human. And Ruth was ever kind, ever supportive, ever open to loving others and caring for her husband and family. I think any mention of Vernon would be incomplete without acknowledging the extremely wise decision he made in marrying RUTH! What a remarkable contribution to life these two individuals have made! I count it such a blessed privilege to have had them in my life and hope to see Ruth again soon. Many blessings, gratitude, and love. Annie Bowlby

Annie Oliver Bowlby - January 19, 2015 at 10:29 AM

RC

“ Dear Ruth:
I am very sorry for your loss. Vern was a wonderful person with a keen mind. We will miss him here in Sisters.
I hope that you and your family are finding strength and consolation as you share memories together.
Best regards,
Rob Corrigan

Rob Corrigan - January 17, 2015 at 07:01 PM

EB

“ Evelyn Bowlby lit a candle in memory of
Vernon Lee Bowlby



evelyn bowlby - January 17, 2015 at 10:36 AM

AB

“ Anna Bowlby lit a candle in memory of Vernon Lee Bowlby



anna bowlby - January 17, 2015 at 10:35 AM

AB

“ Sincere sympathy to Ruth and the family,Memories of the many happy Christmas celebrations and family occasions shared together. Love,Evelyn and Anna Bowlby

anna bowlby - January 17, 2015 at 10:34 AM

VW

“ Our family lost a very great man this week.... I will think of you often Uncle Vernon... You will forever be in our hearts and memories.... Thank You for all that you did for are family.... Love Val

valori worth - January 16, 2015 at 12:19 PM

CB

“ Dear Ruth and family: What a beautiful write-up about Vern's life. He had a varied and productive life. My condolences to the family. Cherril Boissonou

cherrill boissonou - January 16, 2015 at 10:49 AM

MM

“ So very sorry to learn of Vern's passing. He was such a great contributor to the homeowners' association at the Rim at Aspen Lakes. He will be missed. Merry Ann Moore

Merry Ann Moore - January 15, 2015 at 10:47 PM

DS

“ *Dear Ruth and family. Our deepest condolences to you all. We've really appreciated having you and Vernon as our neighbors!*
Sincerely, Dorothy and Steven Sowell

Dorothy Sowell - January 15, 2015 at 08:08 PM