



## Wayne Lewis Howard

April 29, 1933 - July 21, 2023

Wayne Lewis Howard, 90, of Philomath, OR, passed away at his home on July 21, 2023.

Wayne was born in Decatur, Arkansas, on April 29th, 1933, to Jay and Ina (Willert) Howard, the third of four children.

In 1934 due to the depression, the family left Arkansas. Wayne's grandparents, Dad, sister Wilma, and brother Jess loaded up their Model A and drove to California. A one-year-old Wayne and his mother traveled by train after the rest of the family got settled. The Howard's lived and worked on several different farms and ranches in the Ventura and Ojai area. Brother Frank was born later in California.

At the age of five, Wayne had his first job weeding the garden and selling produce at a roadside stand for Guy Bright, the owner of the farm that the family was living on in Casitas Springs, CA. Mr. Bright took Wayne fishing for the first time, and Wayne never forgot how much he enjoyed that fishing trip. That trip led to a life-time enjoyment of hunting, fishing, and camping trips with family and a group of wonderful friends. Wayne also worked at a bowling alley as a young boy. He could hardly remove the rack once he set the pins.

Wayne helped his dad build the first couple of houses they lived in before

moving to Philomath in 1947. The family never stayed in one place very long. Wayne did not like all the moving and said that when he had his own place he would never move again. He lived in his home south of Philomath for 67 years.

Wayne's parents bought a small dairy farm on Woods Creek Road west of Philomath in 1947. Wayne learned to make hay and milk cows. While in high school, he also worked for Lou Bevandich at Philomath Hardware helping Lou install pumps for wells.

Wayne graduated from Philomath High School in 1950 at the age of 17. He then joined the Air Force. After a year of training in Denver and Wichita Falls, he ended up at Cape Canaveral, Florida, and worked on the beginning of the guided missile program. The first computers used in the program filled a whole room.

In 1955 he married Beverly Ann Cagle, and he began building houses with his dad in the Philomath area. Over his career Wayne built over 150 homes. One on Steens Mountain for Rex Clemens, and one in Idaho on the Salmon River for George Shroyer. He also completed numerous local mill projects, flat car bridges, shops, and barns.

Wayne helped lead volunteers in the building of the Philomath Public Library, the Philomath High School football grandstands, the PHS Forestry building, and the baseball lights on the boys' varsity field. He also served on the Philomath School Board and was a Director on the Clemens Foundation Board.

Sports were an important part of Wayne's life. He played tennis as a boy in California. In high school he excelled in football, basketball, and baseball. When he was in the Air Force, he played on military teams that traveled

around Florida, Georgia, and Texas, competing against college teams such as Florida and Florida State. He scored 50 points in one of those basketball games. When he was back in Philomath, Wayne bowled in Corvallis leagues, played competitive badminton, played city league softball, and city league basketball, leading the league in scoring one year, and acquiring the nickname "Hack."

Wayne also raised beef cattle for 30 years. Bailing and hauling hay every summer was a family event and is where all his seven grandchildren learned to drive.

Wayne and Bev raised three boys; Kim (Linda), Kelly (Lisa) and Kevin. They have seven grandchildren; Ethan (Jacqueline) Howard, Bethany (Aaron) Dilla, Kierstin (Sean) Rowley, Annalise (Anthony) Grossnicklaus, Carson Howard, Joceline (Jeremy) Aucoin and Cameron Howard; and eleven great grandchildren.

Wayne was preceded in death by his wife, Beverly; his parents, Jay, and Ina; his sister, Wilma Avery; and his brothers Jess and Frank.

In lieu of flowers please donate to Philomath Youth Activities Club, ([pyac.net](http://pyac.net)); Philomath Food Bank (P.O. Box 1334, Philomath, OR 97370) or the Philomath Community Foundation, or Hospice. The family wishes to thank Signature Hospice's Nicole, Ken, Sandy (Chaplin), Patty, Tim and Diane.

Family and friends are invited to a Celebration of Life, Saturday, August 19, 2023 from 11:00 am -2:00 pm, with Military Honors at Noon at Mary's River Park, 300 S 11th St, Philomath. Wayne will be interred privately. Please share your thoughts and memories for the family at [www.mchenryfuneralhome.com](http://www.mchenryfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Military Honors

AUG **19**. 12:00 PM (PT)

Mary's River Park  
300 S 11th St,  
, Philomath,, OR 97370

# Tribute Wall

PF

“ Wayne was a no nonsense hardworking man. I had the privilege of teaming with him in building the Philomath library. He was there every Saturday as we guided the volunteers for over two years. He treated everyone with respect and made everyone involved feel valuable. Although 18 years my senior at the time, he outworked us all. We shared many hours together building but my favorite moments were lunch conversations and his sharing of the little Werthers candies he kept in his shirt pocket. He was certainly a sweet man.

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**Peter Finn** - August 04, 2023 at 09:40 PM

ST

“ I was fortunate to be Wayne's neighbor for the past 31 years living within viewing distance of Wayne's house on Airport Road next to Shroyer's. The neighborhood was a safer place because Wayne was keeping watch on everything going on. One evening a neighbor carelessly set an old shack on fire in the summertime. I had been unaware of the danger until the fire trucks came roaring into my driveway searching for the source of the fire that Wayne had reported after seeing it from his house.

I was briefly able to return the favor once when I called him to report a distressed cow. Having worked cattle in eastern Oregon, I knew something was wrong, Wayne investigated and called to thank me telling me the cow having had twins had one on the opposite side of the fence.

My late husband was Ron Harper who at one time taught history at Philomath High School. He had briefly lived next door Wayne in Philomath and was delighted when we bought our house to discover that Wayne would once again be his neighbor. After he died, Wayne shared that he really missed Ron.

One time when high winds blew down trees over all the roads and I was stuck in Corvallis for the night and our phone service was out, I called Wayne to ask if he would go over to our house and let Ron know that I was okay but could not get home. Wayne was happy to do so.

Another time, he called to let me know that Ron's pickup had been t boned at the intersection in front of his house. He wanted me to know that Ron was okay but would need a ride.

Wayne was that kind of guy--can do, dependable, helpful.

My sincere condolences.

Sandy Thixton

**Sandy Thixton** - July 29, 2023 at 06:01 PM

KO

“ Had the wonderful privilege of having a house built in Kings Valley by Wayne and sons. He was always so gracious and kind to us as new folks to the “build a house” experience. May all the wonderful memories you have, give you much joy. My prayers are with you all.  
Kim (Hoffman) Osieczanek

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**Kim Osieczanek** - July 28, 2023 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ I grew up in Philomath and remember Wayne well. My father Ray Kisor and Wayne were friends and often worked on projects. My father respected and always had great things to say about him and consulted him at times on home building projects. Both built homes in and around Philomath. So glad to see Wayne lived a long and happy life and left such a lasting legacy.

*Robin Kisor*

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**Robin Kisoar** - July 27, 2023 at 10:53 AM

BG

“ My condolences to Wayne's family. As his sister in law we played many card games together. In fact he sat with me helping to learn the game of pinochle. I still have fond memories of the family holiday get-togethers. He was a fine gentleman.

*Beverly kaster Howard gammon.*

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**Beverly gammon** - July 26, 2023 at 10:21 PM

JH

“ I am saddened to hear of Wayne's passing. He was a great friend to my dad and our family. Love to Kim, Kelly, Kevin and the entire family.

Janet Hendrix - July 24, 2023 at 11:16 AM

LS

“ Our condolences to the family. Wayne was a true gentleman and a talented contractor.  
- The Sleeman's



Lori Sleeman - July 22, 2023 at 10:34 AM

GJ

To Kim and the family, I am sorry to hear of your loss. Last time I talked to you, you told me a lot of great things about your dad, so I could tell you held him in high regard, Best regards, Glenn Jones and family.

Glenn Jones - July 28, 2023 at 01:20 PM