



Keith L. Sherry

December 2, 1920 - January 13, 2015

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Longtime Corvallis resident Keith L Sherry, 94, died on Jan. 13, 2015, after a lengthy battle with dementia. His life ended peacefully, with family by his side.

He was born on Dec. 2, 1920, in Mackay, Idaho, to Floyd Daniel Sherry and Edith Bailey Sherry. His father was a miner, prospector and mineral consultant, so the family frequently moved around within the mining area of Central Idaho. Keith graduated from Mackay High School, then with a school friend went to Chicago to attend Coyne Electrical Trade School.

After graduating from Coyne in 1940, he returned to Mackay and worked for a time as an electrician before joining the Idaho National Guard. He was subsequently inducted into the U.S. Army in April 1941, at the beginning of the U.S. involvement in World War II.

In 1943 he was deployed to the Aleutian Islands. Later he became a part of the ski troops of the distinguished 10th Mountain Division, trained in the high mountains of Colorado. He then served in Italy from January 1945 until the end of the war, when he was honorably discharged.

After the war, he studied electrical engineering at the University of Idaho. He worked for engineering consulting companies in Spokane and Seattle, Washington. Besides his work, he always enjoyed the outdoors; and in the summer of 1956 he joined the Seattle Mountaineers' summer outing in the Sierra Minarets, a part of Yosemite National Park. On that trip, Keith met his future wife, Doris, whom he married four months later in Seattle.

In 1959, Keith's work took the family, now including two young daughters (Annette and Deanne), to Sitka, Alaska, where they enjoyed living for four years. Son Nelson was born in 1961, and the family was completed by the birth of daughter Marcia in 1964.

In 1968, Keith and Doris settled their family in Doris' hometown of Corvallis. Keith always

enjoyed building things, so he designed and built the family homes in both Sitka and Corvallis.

During construction of his Corvallis home, a large structural beam fell on him, breaking his pelvis and leg, and resulted in a severe concussion and long-term recovery. After his accident, he bought a large crawler tractor with which he ran his own business until he retired.

One of Keith's greatest pleasures in life was interacting with and enriching the lives of children. He was president of the Benton Literacy Council for a time. He worked with Boy Scouts and helped teach children to read through the local SMART program. He instilled in his own children a love of nature through activities such as family backpacking and camping trips.

Keith always had a positive outlook, readily smiling and frequently expressing gratitude for his life and loved ones. Even as his dementia progressed, his cheery personality and humor continued to shine through. Until the end, his sunny disposition was appreciated by his many caregivers. His family is deeply appreciative of the compassionate end-of-life care given by the staff at Regent Court.

Keith is survived by Doris, his wife of 57 years; his sister Avis Pearson; his four children, Annette Sherry, Deanne Mapes, Nelson Sherry (Lise Sherry) and Marcia Sherry-Newby (Philip Newby); six grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will take place at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8, at First Congregational United Church of Christ. Memorial contributions can be made to the Nature Conservancy or the Alzheimer's Association.

Comments



“ In the early 70's Keith's family hosted me for 6 weeks. I am reminded of Keith's patience, kindness and understanding during this time I was away from family. I will always treasure this. I am sure Keith's generosity and passion for life will live on through his children, his grandchildren and those he touched. I am blessed to have known him and his family.

~Ruthie Fagerstrom Peterson

Ruth Peterson - March 18, 2015 at 12:52 PM



“ I can think of no better friend I have ever met in Corvallis than Mr. Keith Sherry. When we moved onto Armstrong Way in 1988, he was the first person to help me....I needed a saw to borrow....he told me he had three or four and we went hunting in the basement!!! WE finally found one I could use along with many other treasures he had been looking for over the span of an hour or so. He and Doris were always people we could go talk with to find out the history of how things happened on our street as we improved Armstrong Way over the years. In the past several years, I did my best to stop by and visit Keith to just talk and hear him tell me about some issue he was passionate about or a book he was reading. I will never forget those conversations.....they were priceless. I always told Keith that he may have a few aches and pains, but his handshake was that of a 30 year old !!!!! He was a great friend to our family and I know he was a great role model for his children and ultimately, his grandchildren. Keith Sherry was a great friend to everyone he met and shared his wisdom with. I am so glad I was one of those people whose path he crossed.

Brad Jeffreys, Armstrong Way Resident for 24 years.

Brad Jeffreys - January 19, 2015 at 08:27 AM



“ Keith's sweet smile and blue eyes - I'll remember those. He was such a joy yo sit and visit with during coffee hour after church. Wheeling in with his cap jauntily atop his head, Keith and Doris were always folks I was happy to see. Their devotion to each other, their family and the church inspired me.



Nancy Swain - January 15, 2015 at 10:52 AM