



Andy S Landforce

February 7, 1917 - January 27, 2023

Obituary for Andy Landforce 1917 - 2023

After a long and extraordinary life Andy Landforce passed away on January 27, 2023 surrounded by his family. He was remarkably healthy and active until very shortly before he died. He would have been 106 years old on February 7th. His life spanned some of the most important events in US History including the Depression, WWII, and two pandemics. He leaves an accomplished and inspirational legacy at Oregon State University and in the Corvallis community. He was often referred to as a local legend and a community treasure, and those titles describe him perfectly. He was also a committed and active father, a good husband, and a cooperative and hardworking colleague. He lived in Corvallis for 74 years counting his years as a student at OSC (Oregon State College) where he held many student leadership positions including student body president in 1941-42. He worked 35 years at OSU in Fisheries and Wildlife, Extension and 4-H and another 17 years as a professional fishing guide on Oregon's coastal rivers. He holds many distinctions such as the longest lived participant in the 1942 Rose Bowl and the longest standing season ticket holder for OSU football. He was an ardent Beaver Believer and could often be seen in the stadium or coliseum, or hiking Bald Hill, in his orange cowboy hat. He was a personal friend of Slats

Gill and many of the people who built the structures and institutions at OSU and in the Corvallis community. He never met a stranger and is well remembered for his easy smile and ineffable friendliness. He lived by the values of health, harmony, kindness and gratitude and often ended his interactions by sincerely saying "I'm wishing you daily happiness without a special reason".

Andy was born in 1917 in Seattle Washington with the birth name of Andrew Nicolas Swanson. At four years of age, he was adopted by his aunt Elsie and uncle Andrew Landforce. "Father Landforce" had a profound positive impact on his life and he took the Landforce name. He was 12 years old when the Great Depression hit and he spent his adolescent years growing food on the family farm, delivering milk and hunting and fishing for sustenance. He became an accomplished fisherman and hunter and developed a high value of respect for the lives of the animals he took to sustain his own. He loved playing High School football and leading the team. There was a part of him that always wanted to be a football coach and he would have been a good one!

After high school Andy went to Alaska for a few years to trap and work in the gold mines. He returned from that experience knowing that he did not want to do physical labor for a living. Through a chance encounter on the boat home with Professor Demick in the Agriculture Department at OSC, he decided to attend college and study agriculture, fish and wildlife. He lived in Polling Hall (now Weatherford) for four years, and became one of very few student body presidents ever elected as an Independent. World War II broke out during his college presidency and he led an effort to prevent the Japanese American students from being sent to detention camps. He was unsuccessful but carried that sense of social injustice into the rest of his life and always stood up for those who faced discrimination because of who they were. Being ROTC in college, he joined the war effort as a Company Commander and served in two

theatres during the war, Europe and the Asia/Pacific. His first assignment was at the War Dog Reception and Training Center in Montana. Before reporting there, he married Evelyn Romig of Rickreall Oregon at a military wedding in Fort Sill Oklahoma in 1942 and they started their life together in a little cabin in the Montana backwoods. In Europe at the age of 25 Andy commanded all African-American units of 300 soldiers. He owed his life to the Black officers who taught him how to do his job well in a very precarious racial situation. He came back from the war with an understanding of the value of every person regardless of race or nationality and deeply grateful to be alive.

Following World War II, Andy began a career with the OSU Extension Service. Offered a job by Frank Ballard in 1946, he became the first Extension Agent in Wallowa County, where he stayed for seven years. He was recognized as Junior First Citizen of Wallowa County in 1949. He loved that job and the people of 'the county' and retained lifelong friends from that time, returning annually for fishing and hunting trips. Returning to Corvallis in 1953, he was appointed as the first Extension Specialist in Wildlife Management Education for OSU. Later in his career, he was statewide coordinator for 4-H programs, developing leader training workshops and wildlife outdoor schools during the late 1950s. His accomplishments were many, including induction into the 4-H Hall of Fame and the Conservation Educator of the Year for the Oregon Wildlife Foundation. His work leaves a lasting conservation legacy in the region including being instrumental in the establishment of Finley National Wildlife Refuge. Full archives of his many accomplishments can be found on the OSU Archive website at <http://scarc.library.oregonstate.edu/oh150/landforce/biography.html>

Landforce retired from OSU Extension in 1971, but continued to be involved with Extension affairs for a number of years following. At this same time, he began a new career as a fishing guide on Oregon's rivers, which he pursued

for an additional seventeen years. He is a founding member of the Association of Northwest Steelheaders and was very active in the Isaak Walton League. He was so successful at fishing that many of the other fishing guides didn't want to follow him down the river, knowing all the fish would be gone! He fished successfully on all the major rivers in Oregon sharing these coveted experiences with family and friends well into his 90's. He was immensely grateful for the many friendships he shared on the riverbank and in his boat and cherished those memories always.

During his happy working years in Corvallis he and Evelyn raised three children, Dianne (born 1950), Debora (born 1952) and John (born 1954). Andy and Evelyn had wonderful neighbors on West Hills Road and Andy could be seen at almost every event at Corvallis High School and around town that involved his children. He spent family time both as a family unit and with each child individually on many camping, hiking and fishing trips and at one point created an educational program called "Family Outdoor Recreation" starring his children. He and Evelyn were married almost 70 years when she died in 2012 after living gracefully with cancer for three years. At the age of 95, Andy was her full-time caregiver while maintaining a large home with the help of devoted family members, friends and neighbors. He continued to live in his own home and take daily walks in the neighborhood until his death. The amount of physical and emotional resilience in this man is truly the stuff of legends.

Andy is survived by his Children: Dianne Reinmuth (Bruce Reinmuth), Debora Landforce (Donna Champeau), and John Landforce (Lynda Fischer).

Grandchildren: Greg (Anna) Reinmuth, Mark (Sara) Reinmuth, Janni Reinmuth, Katie (Sam) Kavehrad, Colin (Kelsey) Landforce and David Landforce. Great Grandchildren: Maya, Kelsey, Evie, Cora, James, Mina, Cece, Jayden and Dre'.

Andy was one of a kind and leaves an inspirational legacy of respect and

kindness for all, love for nature and humankind, and an unending enthusiasm for living life to its fullest.

DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Please leave your condolence messages for the family at www.demossdurdan.com.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday March 12th from 2-4 pm. Benton County Fairgrounds Auditorium at 110 SW 53rd Street in Corvallis.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 12. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (PT)

Benton County Fairgrounds Auditorium
110 SW 53rd Street
Corvallis, OR 97333

Tribute Wall

RB

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Robert Baker - November 29, 2024 at 11:30 PM

JS

“ *My name is Jim Snyder and I live a long way from Oregon. Pennsylvania actually. About 20 years ago I was visiting Dick Lantz who had worked with Andy in Fish and Game. Dick convinced Andy to take us on a float for steelhead on the Santiam River. I spent a day with Andy and was so impressed with Andy's generous personality that day in treating me like one of his many friends. We talked about fish of course and many other topics of which he was well versed. I came away from that day knowing I had spent time with one of the nicest, most generous man I have known. I never saw Andy again but I remember him as a wonderful, caring man.*

James Snyder - January 02, 2024 at 08:59 PM

EO

“ My first fishing trip with Andy I learned you could drink Tang hot. Evelyn stayed at the house, Greg, Andy and I left early on a cold, wet morning to go fishing. With the boat put in the water Andy informed us he had a great hole up river about 50 yards he was sure there were fish in. I was shocked when Andy said he was going to row the boat against the current upriver to get us to that hole. Of course he had no trouble completing this task and knew what he was talking about because within 15 minutes Greg had a fish on and landed it. They were both so excited about this catch. My naive knowledge of steelhead fishing frustrated them because I didn't see the big deal. You go fishing to catch fish, right? Back to the Hot Tang. At this point a thermos was pulled out in celebration of the landed fish. Andy shared that you can't drink this until you catch the first fish of the day. It was hot Tang. Strange to me as I hadn't had Tang in years and never had it hot. It was so good on that cold morning on the river. The introduction to the new way to serve Tang has now carried on to my children and grandchildren. Everytime someone is surprised by our serving of Tang hot, the story is shared of Andy and his tradition of hot Tang after landing the first fish of the day.

Love you Andy, the best hugger in the world.



Eva Oveson - March 12, 2023 at 09:25 PM

JO

“ I've known Andy (and Evelyn) as long as I can remember, and he remembered me from before the birth of my twin brother and I. Andy, Malcom Dawson and Dad planned an elk hunting trip into the Snake River country, but had to cancel with our impending birth. Sorry about that, guys.

Of all the times I was around Andy, there were three times I had him all to myself. One of those was, of course, in his drift boat on the Alsea. I know I didn't catch anything but I think Andy did.

Another time was when we went up to Mary's Peak hunting Blacktail. After a few hours sliding around on steep wet ground, crawling through vine Maple and seeing no game, I realized why so many people come to eastern Oregon to hunt. The last time, and the most memorable, was just a few years ago. I was in Corvallis for a track event and was planning on taking him to dinner. When I arrived at his place, he'd decided he didn't to go out, so he threw a couple of frozen dinners in the microwave. Then, for 3 1/2 hours, I sat and listened to him. I don't know if he meant to do it, but he essentially recited his life story. What an incredible life!

Fishing, hunting, sport.....no matter the topic, the main point with Andy's stories was always the life lessons he'd learned and wanted to share. It was never about any of his impressive accomplishments, but always about something he had observed in others, positive or not.

He spent a fair amount of time that last evening together talking about how Evelyn had helped guide and form him into a good father and husband.

I have never had the pleasure of knowing anyone as dynamic as Andy. He remained curious and positive to the end and the rest of us can only hope to be a like him. The world in total and many of us individually, are better for him having been here. In many ways, he remains here, a little bit of him in each of us. Rest in sweet peace Andy.

jeff oveson - March 11, 2023 at 02:42 PM

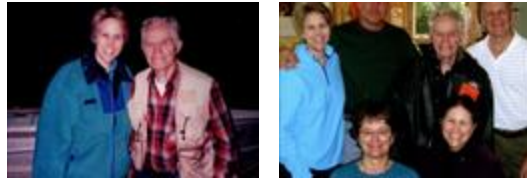


“ Andy was my grandma’s cousin and friend 😊 We always talked about going fishing but distance kept us from going. Andy encouraged me to keep pursuing teaching when I was between jobs. I have been at my current teaching job for 35 years because of him ❤️ We love you and will miss you ❤️ ☐

Vicki Clingen (Hinds) - March 11, 2023 at 10:57 AM



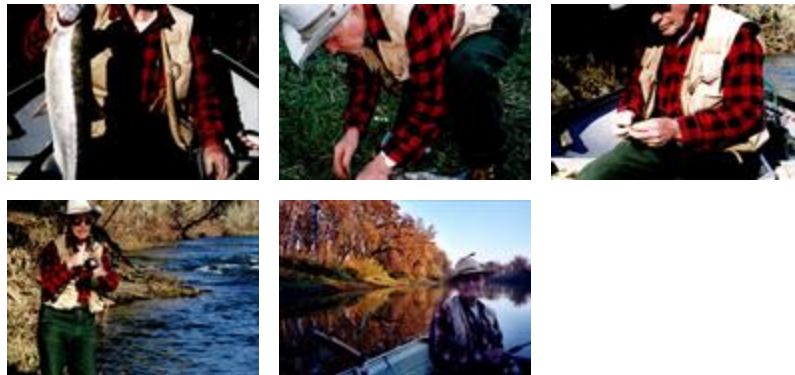
“ 2 files added to the album Family and Friends



DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory - February 10, 2023 at 07:37 PM



“ 7 files added to the album Fishing and Hunting



DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory - February 10, 2023 at 07:37 PM

CD

“ It was a privilege to know Andy and to be in the presence of his exuberant spirit. My friend Steve Bielenburg introduced me to Andy while Steve and I were students at OSU. Andy taught Steve to fish for steelhead and Steve taught me! I encountered Andy and Steve on the Alsea River one Winter day. I was fishing from the bank and Andy and Steve were in Andy's drift boat. They pulled over to me on the bank and Steve mentioned that they were running very low of lead weights and could I share some so they could continue their day fishing until the take out. I looked into my fishing vest and handed over some of my weights to Andy. As I reflect on that occasion and Andy's generosity to so many who knew him, I feel honored to have shared a little with someone who has shared so much.

Clay Donne
Corvallis, OR

Clay Donne - February 05, 2023 at 10:38 PM

DP

“ We so enjoyed meeting Andy when we met Deb. He was a gracious man and very good company. It was a gift to have him in this world so long. We are sending our love to you who knew him best. May his memory be a blessing.

Dianna and Jim Pickett - February 05, 2023 at 05:32 PM

BA

“ I was honored to be one of Andy's neighbors and to experience his perpetual kindness and excitement for life "without a special reason". One of my favorite of many Andy memories was in 2012 when OSU opened and dedicated the new track. Andy and I went down, and the women's track coach, Kelly Sullivan, introduced Andy and asked him to run the first ceremonial lap around the new track-- this was when Andy was "only" 95. He ran the lap and finished with screams of support from the entire track team and everyone there. Andy was truly an inspiring example of kindness and positivity and philosophy--"Some days are better than others". I am so grateful to have been able to call Andy a friend and learn from him for a number of years.



Bruce Austin - February 05, 2023 at 02:29 PM

JK

“ Andy was one of the most kind, generous, and remarkable people I ever knew. He and his family lived across the street from my family on West Hills Road, and his son, Johnny, and I were close friends throughout my childhood. Andy taught me how to fish and took me on numerous fantastic fishing trips. When I bought a used, 11-year-old VW Bus in 1972, Andy let me rebuild its engine in his garage, and gave Johnny and me tips about how to do it. Andy had an immense impact on my life. My condolences to Johnny, Debbie, and Diane. Thank you for sharing your dad with me! Jon Krakauer

Jon Krakauer - February 05, 2023 at 09:10 AM

GE

Andy Landforce, what an incredible man he was in every way. Last year, at the age of 105, Cheryl, Tonya and I went to visit Andy. He had his chair positioned right in front of where we were to sit so we could visit. He would not sit down in a chair until we were all seated. Only one of many stories of the man he was. I am so blessed to call him a special friend and neighbor. Mike and I will be on vacation and unfortunately will miss his celebration of life. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Gail Eby - February 05, 2023 at 10:26 AM

SS

*I was one of the fortunate West Hills Road neighbors! Andy, Evelyn and their children were all wonderful people. I remember Andy as he was in the younger pictures, bringing us fish! My condolences to all!
Susie Adams Stutzman*

Susie Stutzman - February 05, 2023 at 06:27 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Teaching



DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory - February 03, 2023 at 05:08 PM



“ 11 files added to the album *Memories Album*



DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory - February 03, 2023 at 05:08 PM



“ 5 files added to the album *Andy OSU*



DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory - February 03, 2023 at 05:08 PM



“ 8 files added to the album Andy and Evelyn



DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory - February 03, 2023 at 05:08 PM

BM

Andy Landforce was one of the few very special friends and mentors who helped me shape my future and career. I'm forever grateful! While I cut my outdoor teeth (with his help in the extension service) in Corvallis at the Gazette-Times, when I moved to a complete dream job in Portland and The Oregonian, I came equipped with a recent outing on the Siletz River with (now also a retired judge) Glen Baisinger. Andy and Ernie Walters, his legendary best friend and fishing partner, were fishing that day and gave us some of their sand shrimp and some pointers then shoved off to hit their favorite holes. To our delight and great surprise, we limited...they didn't...What a FUN first outdoor column at his expense. I do not ever recall Andy without a smile on his face...even over the phone...RIP sir...

Bill Monroe - March 02, 2023 at 04:39 PM



“ 11 files added to the album *Family and Friends*



DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory - February 03, 2023 at 05:08 PM



“ 20 files added to the album *Fishing and Hunting*



DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory - February 03, 2023 at 04:40 PM