



Fred Lewis Wright

June 29, 1947 - September 11, 2024

My journey began in Oakdale, California on 29 June 1947. My early childhood was spent on grandfather's homestead dairy farm, living in the tiny milker's cottage with my parents. When I reached school age, we moved to a small ranch near Valley Home, where I attended elementary school in a small four-classroom building. A short time later, we moved to Mi-Wuk Village where I was befriended by a native Miwok boy, then to Twain Harte, where I completed second grade. We then returned to the ranch in Valley Home, where I graduated from Ripon Christian Junior High and attended Escalon Union High School, where I played football and ran track.

In 1962 my parents sold their small ranch and moved to Oakridge, Oregon, a Cascade Mountains timber town, where my father purchased a retail clothing store. I enrolled in Oakridge High School as a sophomore, and soon adapted from rural to town life. I ran track and played football, helping my assimilation. I describe my football skills as consistent mediocrity with occasional flashes of

abject incompetence. My singular highlight was a 76-yard pick-six my Senior year. I remember our persistent, patient Coach Jim Clifton, “who loved us more than we deserved, and suffered us more than he deserved.” I also remember track coach Herb Henry who encouraged and trained me to compete successfully in several events.

I remember OHS math and science teacher Jerry Snyder, who brought me books by Einstein and Plank, encouraging me to pursue independent study, which I continued throughout my life. Mr. Snyder was an outstanding teacher who went the extra mile. Although this timber town was dramatically different than my rural ranch life, I have fond memories of friends and the amazing outdoors environment there. My mother’s surprise pregnancy in Oakridge and the birth of my sister Mary in 1963 changed my life. As a 16-year-old, I became the third parent in my family, learning valuable child rearing skills.

Following 1965 graduation from Oakridge High School, I took a job with the USFS as a firefighter, earning just enough money for Fall term enrolment into Oregon State University. Five challenging years later, I graduated with degrees in mathematics and civil engineering. During my collegiate years I met and married OSU Education major Sharon Carver. Following graduation, I pursued a career in Civil Engineering, which led us first to San Mateo, CA, then to Mt.

Vernon, WA, where we welcomed the birth of our daughter Lisa, then to Eugene, OR where I joined a large international consulting firm. I remember Dan Norris of Brown and Caldwell Consulting Engineers, as a mentor who encouraged innovative, creative approaches to problem solving. With the new responsibility of child rearing, we returned to Corvallis, Oregon, known for its quality schools, as our permanent home. I opened my own consulting engineering practice there in 1990, focused on design and construction of civil infrastructure, concentrated on residential and commercial development in the mid- Willamette Valley, including the massive 800-acre mixed use Timberhill Acres in Corvallis.

Continuously active in my professional organization, the American Society of Civil Engineers, since college years, I eventually retired as a Fellow and Life Member. Other enjoyable engineering projects included the Drift Creek Falls suspension Trail Bridge, the OSU Hinsdale Wave Research Laboratory, and Summit House Restaurant at Crystal Mountain Ski Resort, with its 800 psf snow loads. I designed various projects for western Native American Reservations, offering me educational opportunities in tribal culture, history and local archeology. My myriad hobbies included men's league softball and indoor soccer, competitive road running, mountaineering,

hiking, backpacking, birding and wine touring with my wife Sharon, family and friends. From childhood, I always enjoyed reading, more recently Native American and Latin American literature. My Ancestry family tree currently includes 67,000 documented relatives. With Sharon, I enjoyed attending the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, local plays and live music events. We loved small jazz venues. I played online chess with friends and family throughout my life. Music was a continuous presence in my life with Sharon.

I was very fortunate to find a partner who loved the mountains as much as I did. Together we explored the Oregon and Washington Cascades on foot, and much of Yosemite National Park, where Sharon summited Clouds Rest with me. The Enchantment Lakes of the North Cascades, Mt. Ranier NP, Olympics NP Hoh River Trail were memorable, as was Eagle Cap Wilderness in the Wallowa Mountains. We enjoyed numerous backpacks in Three Sisters Wilderness, some with our young daughter Lisa. In Montana, we enjoyed the mountains on horseback, as well. While in In the Taylor Range, I had the opportunity to summit Koch Peak.

Fortunately, I had the opportunity to climb most of the Cascade volcanoes, some more than once. Washington's Mt. Baker was my favorite climb, Oregon's North Sister the most challenging, which I summited twice but never felt comfortable on the "terrible traverse"

approaching the summit block.

One nostalgic memory was Cold Mountain in Yosemite NP, where I was accompanied by my father on his first and only climb.

During my engineering career, I spent fifteen years as a professional part-time soccer coach, training U-11 through U-19 elite club players, primarily girls, but I loved training middle school kids of either gender. Completing the state and national soccer coaching schools, which I enjoyed immensely, I secured my U.S. Soccer Federation “Life” license in 1985. With wife Sharon, designated team “soccer mom” we participated in numerous soccer tournaments, traveling and competing against premier teams from Oregon, Washington, California and British Columbia.

My civic activities included the Corvallis Planning Commission, several Corvallis City Council committee appointments, and donated engineering services to the Corvallis Parks Department and other non-profits.

Fred is survived by his wife of 55 years, Sharon Wright of Corvallis; daughter Lisa; Lisa’s husband her son Giovanni and daughter Sofia ; sister Mary French (Brad) of Beaverton, OR; sister-in-law Janet Peterson of West Linn, OR; nephews Jim Galloway, Scott Peterson and niece Mikelle Peterson.

Tribute Wall

WP

“ Fred was a classmate at Oakridge High class of '65 with me and others. Needless to say he was one of the best students with his high academic standards, leadership and athletic skills. Afterword he & I learned what Oregon State University was about! OSU Engineering courses then were hard but he more than survived. I was always proud of his success.

Fred's career is a reflection of how a person can improve so many things in the world and leave a positive impression with those he met. On Sept. 16th, I checked his name only to find out that he passed away. I was deeply saddened.

I was in only a short segment of his JOURNEY. Sharon and other family members, I am deeply sorry for your loss.

William Pokorny

William Pokorny - October 02, 2024 at 02:21 AM

SW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Sharon Wright - September 28, 2024 at 02:15 PM

CS

“ From Cindy:
Cousin Freddy!! I'm so glad we reconnected in recent years!! I so enjoyed his texts and posts and messages and sharing
One memory I have which caused me trauma (and therapy!!) is when we were kids living in Valley Home ... and he fell into the ditch..... and I thought he drowned!!! I could speak for at least 24 hours afterwards (I was told)——
I was traumatized..... but he told me many years later that he'd always just felt lucky.... No lingering trauma or anxiety at all!!!!
He was our family historian and gave us so much information about our families —— Much of it we I didn't know!!
He was intelligent (I called him a “brainiac”)
And he was kind——
One memory I love is dancing with him (my handsome cousin) at Richie and Becky's weddings!
I will miss him and his daily posts——
I love him!
I'm thankful he knew the Lord Jesus Christ— that is the MOST important thing in this life!!!
John 3:16

cindy smart - September 23, 2024 at 06:58 PM

MA



Mary - September 24, 2024 at 08:08 PM

JS

“ Fred, always a gentleman. He was so bright and accomplished, witty and warm. Reading material varied between Spanish language poets, whimsical poetry and serious world issues. He was an amazing optimist who valued everyday. I am so happy to have had him for a friend.

Judy Stenman - September 22, 2024 at 01:11 AM

JS

“ Always a gentleman. Bright, witty, interested in lots of areas, widely read , found and shared wonderful poetry. Unbelievably positive about life. I have loved my friendship with Fred and am grateful for knowing him.

Judy Stenman - September 21, 2024 at 12:46 AM

MA



Mary - September 24, 2024 at 08:08 PM

SD

“ Visiting grandpa & grandma 2024 - Sofia



Sofia DeBenedictis - September 20, 2024 at 09:49 PM

MA



Mary - September 24, 2024 at 08:08 PM

CW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cyndi Wahrmund - September 18, 2024 at 09:49 PM

CW

“ I have a lot of special memories of Fred. He was a wonderful, and accomplished person. I first got to know him when he and Sharon were working just down the hall from my Dad's office, where i also worked, and then later when we would explore Dundee Hills, Hood River and Roseburg area wineries together. Watching OSU football, square dancing, and playing dice and card games or just sitting around chatting together were really good times. He will be greatly missed.

Love and condolences to Sharon and family.

Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted. Matthew 5:4

With love, Cyndi Wahrmund

Cyndi Wahrmund - September 16, 2024 at 02:44 PM

MA



Mary - September 19, 2024 at 02:42 PM

MA

“ 2 files added to the album *Great memories*



Mary - September 16, 2024 at 01:12 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*

Be still, my soul, and steadfast.
Earth and heaven both are still watching
though time is draining from the clock
and your walk, that was confident and quick,
has become slow.

So, be slow if you must, but let
the heart still play its true part.
Love still as once you loved, deeply

DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory - September 16, 2024 at 01:08 PM