



## Venceslaus "Ed" Kasperek

June 30, 1922 - December 31, 2015

Venceslaus Edward Kasperek

"Ed ("Buck")

Ed died at Samaritan Evergreen Hospice House in Albany on Dec. 31, 2015. Ed was born June 30, 1922 on a tenant farm to immigrants, Stephan (a widower), and Elizabeth (Volk) Kasperek, Bee Nebraska, the first of her nine children.

At age 3, Ed was kicked by a horse near his left eye resulting in permanent major loss of vision in that eye. They had moved to a farm near Seward where he walked to the county school and first learned English. About age 8, he survived minus 4 degree blizzard by sheltering in a snow bank for several hours. He helped with grain harvests and animal care, and fished and hunted for extra food. He attended Seward High School and worked for the NYA.

He entered the army in 1942, serving in Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri as an office worker and messenger, and received police training. In Louisiana he was trained in demolition engineering. Finally he guarded prisoners of war in Texas and Arizona, many doing farm labor.

Meanwhile his family had moved in 1945 to a farm near Independence, OR for one year and then to a farm on Gordon Road, Corvallis. He joined them after discharge in 1946, worked on nearby farms and on one in Lobster Valley.

He worked one year for the railroad, repairing tracks between Corvallis and the Coast. In 1948 he joined the OSU Physical Plant, employed 35 years as an equipment operator helping with transport of materials, construction, installation maintenance and demolition on and off campus. He was nicknamed "Buck" for his heavy lifting and carrying. After retirement in 1984, he continued to work part-time for several years as a grounds keeper.

His family had moved to Kiger Island and later purchased the former Kiger Island Country School property. In 1950 they dismantled the buildings, saving materials and Ed helped his father and four younger brothers build their two story family home and out buildings, where he lived the rest of his life, with some of his family. He helped care for his garden and small orchard and also purchased additional farm land nearby, growing crops and fruit trees in his spare time for several years. He sold produce to Gerdings Market.

Ed was a devout Catholic, praying nightly, attending church weekly, volunteering for adoration, joining the Knight of Columbus, and helping at their fundraisers. He also donated to his church and other Catholic charities, American Indian and Veterans Organizations, and enjoyed buying presents for his siblings and their children. He was a member of Post 10, American Legion and the Moose.

In the 1970's he met Frances Duryee. They enjoyed weekend dances, boating, fishing, hunting, gardening, church camps, trips to the coast and holiday visits to relatives. They married Sept. 19, 1992 and lived in the family home while she continued to commute to the Dept. of Biology, UO. Together they gardened and sold surplus produce on consignment at the Farmer's Market, exhibited at county fairs and donated to Stone Soup. Ed especially enjoyed growing and eating long "burpless" cucumbers, and won many first prizes. , 2015 was the first year he did not have a vegetable garden.

The last couple of years he had balance problems and increased COPD. Early this year he was hospitalized with cancer. It was untreated but he had no obvious severe symptoms until a lower gastric blockage occurred on Christmas night.

Ed is preceded in death by his parents, his older half-brother, Raymond Kasperek and half-sister, Cecelia K. and his 4 younger brothers, Theophilis (Ted), Steven, Bernard, Alphons (Al), and younger sister, Patricia. He is survived by his wife, Frances L. Duryee; 3 younger sisters, Mrs. Marie (Mary) Dowless, Mrs. Martha Billings and Mrs. Angela Tietz; 13 nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service will be held 1:00 pm, Saturday, January 16, 2016 at St. Mary's catholic Church, 501 NW 25th Street, Corvallis, followed by a reception.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Mary's Catholic Church, or Camp Magruder; Rockaway; American Cancer Society facilities maintenance c/o OSU foundation or other charity.

Please share your thought and memories at [www.demosdurdan.com](http://www.demosdurdan.com).

# Cemetery Details

## St. Mary's Cemetery

NW Grant Avenue & Witham Hill Drive  
Corvallis, OR 97330

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 16. 1:00 PM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
501 NW 25th Street  
Corvallis, OR 97330

# Tribute Wall

LB

“ I'm so happy that I met you, got to know you over the years. You were a very sweet man, adored by many & so loved by many. Though I never had the chance to thank you, know that it meant a lot you & Frances came to see mom before she passed. As I miss your brother Al, so shall I miss you. Rest In Peace Ed.  
To you Frances & to the rest of the family, I'm so sorry for your loss.



Lena

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Lena Brown - January 20, 2016 at 01:53 PM

KB

“ Dear Frances, You do not know me, I go to St. Mary's church. I always sit in the back to right, the same area Ed always sat in and sometimes you too. He was one of the few men who still wore a suit coat to church. As the years went on it became evident that it was physically a real hardship for him to come to mass. It took a great deal of effort on his part to be there. He became an inspiration to me. Without ever really speaking to him he set an example for me. I have no excuse not to attend mass when I am able bodied. I will truly miss seeing him at church. He touched my life by his example.

I am sorry for your loss and I will be praying for you and him.

God Bless,  
Karen Brayton

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Karen Brayton - January 17, 2016 at 03:45 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory** - January 13, 2016 at 11:50 AM