



## Wilburn E. Hall

August 9, 1919 - March 7, 2018

"By Gory, there're a lot of crabs in that pot!" would have been a common refrain of Wilburn's when he pioneered the Dungeness fisheries on the west coast - and again when he pursued the king crab fisheries in Alaska.

On March 7, 2018, Wilburn Eugene Hall took his last breath and peacefully and willingly began his eternal life with God. He was born to Evan Silas Hall and Ruth Ellen Whisler Hall on their family homestead near American Falls, Idaho, on August 9, 1919. Wilburn joined older twin brothers Chester and J. Raymond, with sisters Frances and Mary yet to be born. In 1924, many of the extended family including grandparents, moved to Vernonia, Oregon, to pursue work in the timber industry. Life was not easy but Wilburn was always surrounded by loving family who taught him the Christian faith, value of work, loyalty and self-reliance. After his mother's illness, he and his father moved to Waldport in 1930 where he learned to forage seafood from the river. In high school, Wilburn played basketball, was school treasurer and the only boy who took typing and bookkeeping. These skills served him well throughout his business career. Even before graduating in 1937, Wilburn drafted a contract to buy a small salmon boat for the three brothers to fish. Ultimately, Wilburn by himself or with partners, owned more than seventeen vessels and other maritime operations. He left a huge imprint in the fishing industry.

After his marriage to Dorothy Joyce Curryer in 1941, they moved to Newport and were blessed with four children: Bonnie, Janet, Vern and Margaret. While Wilburn fished principally crab, he also caught shark, albacore and shrimp. In

testing the Dungeness fishery in Alaska, he saw the potential in king crab. In 1963, he moved operations to Kodiak where he thrived in this new crab fishing frontier and soon established the family business, Rondys, Inc. He also became a shareholder in All Alaska Seafoods which operated shoreside and floating processors. Later, he expanded his business interests by purchasing real estate in Newport, investing in Sanipak (maker of sanitation equipment) in California, exploring gold mining in the Yukon, developing a limestone quarry in Idaho and entering the early Bering Sea Pollock fishery. After losing Joyce in 1999, he found happiness again by marrying Kathleen Hicks Weber in 2000.

But for all his successes, Wilburn will be remembered most for his strength of character. Wilburn's faith in God was unassailable. It guided his morality in all aspects of his life, with a favorite Bible verse being "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness..."

Wilburn cared deeply for his family, mentored many others and gave generously whenever he saw a need. He truly liked to work but also relished his leisure time. He was a happy hunter on trips to eastern Oregon and Alaska and he loved watching basketball anytime. Vacations were usually family road trips; notably were circling the US in 1953 and to Alaska in 1956. While driving, he'd tell stories, yodel and sing old songs, sometimes adding humorous verses of his own. Later, he and Joyce enjoyed traveling the Holy Lands, Europe, Mexico, Venezuela and Singapore. Even in his 80's, he and Kathleen traveled to Canada, Florida and Arizona.

Wilburn enjoyed music in general, but favored western cowboy songs and classic church hymns. He was a great storyteller and often enjoyed a hearty laugh in the midst of the telling. He entertained his children with tales of his youth as well as stories of Paul Bunyan, "Brer Rabbit" and life in Dogpatch. Many of his personal stories can be found in his 2015 memoir, My Fishing Life.

Treasured by his family, Wilburn is survived by his wife Kathleen; sister Mary Binkley of Fairbanks, Alaska; children: Bonnie Elerding, Janet (Peter) Long,

Vern (Debi) Hall and Margaret (Craig Nelsen) Hall; grandchildren: Dan Nelson, Melinda (Galen Salgado) Long, David (Suzanne) Long, Evan (Amy) Hall, Ida Hall, George Hall, and Elizabeth (Jordan Anderson) Nelsen; plus five great-grandchildren: Tyler Cannon-Nelson, Charlotte and Millicent Long, and Riley and Elsa Hall. First wife, Joyce Hall and granddaughter Trisha Elerding are predeceased.

A memorial service in his honor will be held at 11:00 am on March 24, 2018 at Newport First Christian Church with a reception following. Donations may be made to the Joyce Hall Memorial Scholarship.

# Tribute Wall

MH

“ *Joyce Hall Memorial Scholarship Fund* When Wilburn's wife Joyce passed in 1999, the fund was established by her children to carry on her memory and love of music. It provides college scholarships to graduates of Newport High School for whom music is a passion. Oldest daughter Bonnie is the primary trustee of the fund, which is administered by Cairns Investment Group in Portland, Oregon. Bonnie and a committee of local citizens, former NHS graduates and a high school music teacher review the applicants and choose a recipient each year. If you are interested in donating, please send your check to: *Joyce Hall Memorial Scholarship Fund c/o Bonnie Hall Elerding 15711 NE 29th Ave Vancouver, WA 98686*  
You will receive a confirmation of your charitable tax donation from Cairns Investment. Thank you very much, *The Children of Joyce and Wilburn Hall Bonnie, Janet, Vern and Margaret*

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**Margaret Hall** - March 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM

HR

“ *My deepest condolences to all of Wilburns family members, his friends and to those he mentored. I will always remember Wilburn as being the most humble person I have ever had the joy and pleasure of knowing. A very kind person for sure. I am thankful for the memories.*

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**Holly Robison** - March 23, 2018 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ *An A GARDEN PATH was sent on March 23, 2018 My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Please accept my deepest condolence in this time of loss and sadness.*  
*Georgina Hall & Family*

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**Expression of Sympathy** - March 23, 2018 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ *An A GARDEN PATH was sent by Graham Merriman and Family on March 22, 2018*

Expression of Sympathy - March 22, 2018 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ *A TRADITION AND SPLENDOR was ordered on March 21, 2018*

Expression of Sympathy - March 21, 2018 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ *A MONET'S GARDEN BASKET was ordered on March 21, 2018*

Expression of Sympathy - March 21, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JY

“ *I knew Wilburn mostly through the eyes of my dad, Old Feller, and brothers. Our families were close and shared in both fishing and prospecting. Wilburn was lucky to live such a great, active life. I hope he gets in touch with Old Feller now and they can continue to find limestone, gold or whatever up there.*

Janice Painter Yaden - March 21, 2018 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ *An A GARDEN PATH was ordered on March 20, 2018*

Expression of Sympathy - March 20, 2018 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ *A DIGNITY IN WHITE PEDESTAL ARRANGEMENT was sent on March 20, 2018 Our thoughts are with the family. He was a wonderful man, thoughtful teacher of life and we are blessed to have known him. May he have fair wind and following seas.*

*Linda McClain & Phillip Smith*

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**Expression of Sympathy** - March 20, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ *We are so sorry for your loss, our thoughts are with you*

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**Tony and Minnie Berts** - March 20, 2018 at 12:00 AM

FB

“ *My deepest condolences go out to all the family, This word has lost a great man, but has left us with great memories, I really enjoyed working with him in my early days as a fisherman and at his later days as a fisherman, a true inspiration on how life is to be lived, you did it right Wilburn, congratulations on living live to the fullest, rest in peace my friend.*

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**Franke Brown** - March 20, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *My condolences to the Halls. This world has lost a great and humble man. Well done Wilburn!*

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**Charlie Freeburg** - March 19, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ You will be missed by gory!



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**Diana Franklin** - March 19, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ My deepest sympathy to Wilbur s precious children he loved so very much Janet. Margaret Bonnie and Vern I know you will miss your dad as many in the Newport Community will God bless you all and be in your hearts at this most sorrowful moment in your lives.I cared for Wilbur for 3 years and he was the kindest dearest soul my condolences he will be remembered in my heart may he rest in peace God bless you dear children I will miss him also.

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**Diana Franklin** - March 19, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ The earth will miss his Godly influence --

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**Teena Hall** - March 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ My deepest condolences to all. It was a privilege to help write Wilburn's personal history into a memoir. What a life he lived! -Teru Lundsten

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**Teru Lundsten** - March 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ *This is Georgina Hall. I am so saddened to hear of Wilburns passing. Please accept my deepest condolences and my thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Wilburn was a great man and very respected and loved by John. John had many stories he told me of Wilburn with fondness. Again please accept my condolences. Again, With time an era is lost that we will never experience again. Georgina Hall*

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**Georgina Hall & Family** - March 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM