



Owen Belnap

May 1, 1922 - May 3, 2016

Owen S. Belnap
“The Waving Man”

On Tuesday, May 3, just two days after his 94th birthday, the sweet, pure heart of Owen S. Belnap finally gave out. Since 1986, Owen has been known around Ephrata as the Waving Man. Following his retirement, Owen walked a 2-mile route around town nearly every day, and enjoyed waving at every vehicle that passed him. He loved the waves and smiles he would get in return, but the honk of a car horn would get the driver Two Thumbs Up and a big grin from The Waving Man. As he passed age 90 and arthritis began slowing him down, an adult trike on the Nat Washington Way bike path replaced his walk in town, but he continued to wave and grin and give thumbs up to every vehicle he saw until just a few weeks ago.

Owen was a skilled welder, having learned the trade in his youth from a blacksmith in Vale, Oregon. Following his High School graduation in 1941, he attended the Weiser Vocational School in Weiser, Idaho. He worked in the shipyards in Portland until his deferment expired, and then he joined the US Navy. He was a veteran of World War II, having served in conflicts in the Solomon Islands. Like so many of The Greatest Generation, following his separation from the Navy he came home, found and married a sweetheart, and rarely spoke of his war experiences.

Owen had been employed by Morrison-Knudsen Construction in Boise, Seeberg Buick in Pasco, and Ephrata Auto Repair, among others, when he was a young husband and father. In 1959, he went to work for the Grant County PUD and retired in 1987. Following retirement, Owen and his beloved first wife June served as missionaries for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Nashville, Tennessee in 1989 and 1990. They continued to be active in church work and family service until June’s sudden death in March, 2001. In 2004, Owen married Kathy Bishop in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho.

Besides being renowned for his walking and waving, Owen was a talented woodworker.

He made gorgeous pieces from ugly wood. He made great-looking bowls out of elm burl, fish knockers out of former tree branches, and candle holders, salt and pepper shakers, and fish knockers out of “found” sagebrush.

Owen is survived by his loving wife, Kathy Bishop Belnap of Ephrata; his children, Steven (Tammie) of Payson, Utah; Lynn (Sharlene) of Ephrata; Carla Dee Hastings of Boulder City, Nevada; and Kevin (and Teresa) of Glendale, Arizona. Additionally, he is survived by 22 grandchildren and 47 great-grandchildren, his brother Raymond of Vale, Oregon, a sister-in-law, Fern of Dayton, Oregon; a treasured friend, Donna Allgood of Ephrata, and countless nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews. He was predeceased by his beloved first wife, June Lois Hiatt Belnap; his parents, David Belnap and Avis Belnap; a sister, Florence Belnap Machen; and two brothers, Amasa “Mac” and Duane.

Viewing will be held from 9-9:45 am on Tuesday, May 10 at the Ephrata LDS Church, 1301 East Division Street, followed by funeral services, at 10 a.m. Interment will be in the Ephrata City Cemetery.

Cemetery

**Ephrata City
Cemetery**

Ephrata, WA, 98823

Events

MAY Visitation 09:00AM - 09:45AM

10

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints- Ephrata
Chapel

1301 Division Avenue East, Ephrata, WA, US

MAY Service 10:00AM

10

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints- Ephrata
Chapel

1301 Division Avenue East, Ephrata, WA, US

Comments



“ I remember a time when Owen was serving as an adopted grandfather to me in a time of uncertainty. I was living with Lynn & Sharlene and working at Willow Drive Nursery over the winter. I lost control of my truck on the way to work, and slid off the road braking the axel among other damage. Own, Lynn and I worked on that truck for the next cold month making it drivable again. In the process of working on that broken axel, I managed to bend a large prybar size screwdriver in two places, essentially delivering two 45 degree bends that had the flat of the screwdriver facing 90 degrees from the handle. Needless to say everything came with brute force back then. The following Christmas, Owen gave that screwdriver to me as a present. At the time, I didn't recognize it much less remember it. Owen had kept that screwdriver, straightened it, and returned it to me. He told me that in time with God's help and a little patients all things can be fixed. Back then, I thought it was about the screwdriver; but today I know he was working on something much more. I still have that screwdriver today, and it's just as strait as when Owen gave it to me. As time went by, I didn't get back home as much as I should have. The last time I saw Owen, he didn't remember me. Today, I know he is in a far better place, and able to see how he helped shape the lives of my family and I.

Michael Youngers - December 19, 2016 at 11:36 PM



“ I was saddened today when I checked the obituaries and found President Belnap had passed away with me unaware. I sure would have come and represented the Hebdon family who loved/loves the Belnap family. I have such fond memories of good times with you all. Shawna Hebdon Scorup

Shawna Hebdon Scorup - May 18, 2016 at 01:03 PM



“ Shawna--Thank you so much for your very sweet & kind words. I'm so sorry I didn't contact your family. I remembered your sister married a Warnick, and I started to track her down, but the phone rang. Again.

I sincerely apologize for getting distracted. Owen spoke so highly of your parents and his and June's associations with them, particularly in the Tennessee Nashville Mission.

kathy bishop belnap - May 19, 2016 at 01:20 AM



“ Audrey And Dan lit a candle in memory of Owen Belnap



Audrey and Dan - May 05, 2016 at 04:59 PM