



Mark A. O'Brien

October 27, 1930 - July 9, 2012

Mark A. O'Brien, 81, longtime Warden resident and area farmer passed away Monday, July 9, 2012 at Summer Wood Care Center. Memorial Mass will be held at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 18, 2012 at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church in Warden. Please sign the online guestbook at www.kayserschapel.com Arrangements are in care of Kayser's Chapel & Crematory.

Mark was born on October 27, 1930 in Benkelman, Nebraska, son of the late Peter and Mary (Gleason) O'Brien. He was raised on a farm in Northwest Kansas the youngest of 13 children. Mark's schooling ended at age 14 because of World War II and the shortage of help to work on the farm. He served in the U.S. Marines 1st Marine Division during the Korean War. After his honorable discharge in 1954, he started working the oil and gas wells drilling rigs in New Mexico, working through the Rocky Mountain area to the Canadian Line for 14 years. When Alaska became a state in 1959, he worked 4 more years in the oil fields there. He started fishing king crab in the Bering Sea for 16 years. During this time he got his private pilot license as well as the U.S. Coast Guard Master's License. He owned an interest in two trawlers that fished for Pollack in the Bering Sea.

He was married in 1971 and this marriage brought 5 step children into his life. Mark purchased his first farm in Warden in 1975 and moved onto the farm in 1981 to start farming. He bought his second farm in 1983. In 2001, Mark married Margaret Hoffman and they have continued to live and farm in Warden.

Mark is survived by his wife Margaret O'Brien, Warden; 1 sister, Agnes Ostdeik; 7 step children; a nephew and partner in business, Paul Glasco; many more nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by 11 siblings, Peter, Bob, Glen, Tom, Clair, Pat, Paul, John, Leo, Dan and Mary.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Columbia Basin Cancer Foundation, PO Box 1337, Moses Lake, WA

Previous Events

Service

JUL 18. 10:00 AM (PT)

Queen of All Saints Catholic Church
1100 S. Pine
Warden, WA

Tribute Wall



“ Missing you...*##imported-begin##Mary O'Brien Duff##imported-end##*

August 05, 2012 at 03:08 PM



“ Grandpa will be missed by so many people. An honorable, humble and wise man.
Thank you Margret, Paul and many more for being there in his final hour.*##imported-begin##Curtis Jay Dickson Bixler##imported-end##*

July 20, 2012 at 03:14 AM



“ I feel honored to have met such an incredible man, Mark was one of the most humble and caring men I have ever met. Rest in peace Mark, you will be missed!*##imported-begin##Carla Hummel##imported-end##*

July 18, 2012 at 02:19 AM



“ Mark was great man and I will miss him dearly. Love you great uncle Mark.*##imported-begin##Christopher Glasco##imported-end##*

July 18, 2012 at 01:03 AM



“ Truly a re"mark"able man! Honored I could be there, thank you Mararget!*##imported-begin##Heather Glasco##imported-end##*

July 18, 2012 at 12:55 AM



“ I am so thankful that I got to visit with Great Uncle Mark and Margaret in March. He was a wonderful man and I am so glad that I got to know him.##imported-begin##Karna Gruber##imported-end##

July 17, 2012 at 03:49 PM



“ I am very sorry to hear of Mark's passing. He was such a sweet gentleman. Please accept my deepest sympathy during this difficult time.##imported-begin##Debbie Hellewell##imported-end##

July 17, 2012 at 10:24 AM



“ We were so sorry to hear of Mark's passing. He was such a nice and giving person, always smiling, always with a kind word. God bless him.##imported-begin##Jerry & Karen Kinder##imported-end##

July 16, 2012 at 09:40 PM



“ Our prayers go out to Mark's family and Margaret. Someone told me in Warden when they found out about Mark's passing away, that Warden has lost a pillar. Indeed we have. It will be a pillar that will be very hard to replace. May his soul rest in peace and Margaret anything you need, please don't hesitate to get a hold of us. God bless.##imported-begin##Roldan & Virginia Capetillo##imported-end##

July 16, 2012 at 05:55 PM



“ We are deeply saddened by his death.
We send our condolences to the family.
May God give him eternal rest & may him soul rest in
peace!##imported-begin##Arneth Gecoso Tare##imported-end##

July 14, 2012 at 09:05 PM



“ We are deeply saddened by his death.
We send our condolences to the family.
May God give him eternal rest & may him soul rest in
peace!##imported-begin##Arneth Gecoso Tae##imported-end##

July 14, 2012 at 09:03 PM



“ Margaret and family:
Please accept our condolences on Uncle Mark's passing. Thank
you for caring for him for all these years and during the time of his
illness. Uncle Mark was genuinely a true gentleman and one of the
kindest men I have had the pleasure of knowing. I am proud to call
him Uncle and thank him for serving our country as a U.S. Marine
during Korea. Did you know when I was a little boy he gave me his
heavy U.S. Marine winter coat he wore in Korea? I wore it for many
years growing up on our Nebraska farm during those long and cold
winter months. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as Uncle
Mark is now resting well in the arms our Lord and Savior, Jesus
Christ. Rest in Peace Uncle Mark--you ran the good race, fought the
good fight, you kept the faith.##imported-begin##Patrick O'Brien
Jr.##imported-end##

July 14, 2012 at 01:09 PM



“ We have lost our dear friend and the "M" of M & G Farms. Mark was such a great potato producing partner for 28 years, and enjoyed being out in the field to see how the spuds were growing. At coffee or lunch he would have a new joke or story to tell, and his low key voice always added to the delivery. He had a kind word for everyone. The potato industry has gone up and down over the years, but Mark was always solid and steady, and hung in with us. That's just who he was. We are grateful and proud to have known Mark as a business partner and as a friend. We want to extend our deepest sympathy to Margaret and the family.

Gary, Verla, Blaine, and Sophie Steffler##imported-begin##Gary Steffler##imported-end##

July 14, 2012 at 01:44 AM



“ Words cannot describe the kind man Mark was. Even to the end, thinking of others, what they felt. Such a humble man. Such a giving man. God Bless you all as you journey through the life God has given. I picture Cassie running up to him at the pearly gates and saying "Hi Mark, welcome to heaven, I think you will like it here, it's pretty AWESOME." Stick in there Margaret, you've done a great job. You know our number. God Bless.##imported-begin##Steve and Laurie Ahmann and Family##imported-end##

July 13, 2012 at 07:59 PM



“ I am Jeff Hendricks, a friend of Mark's and a business partner of his in the Alaska fishing industry. Since the early 70's Mark and I were fishing vessel captains in the Bering Sea King crab fishery. At that time, I didn't know Mark personally but he was always respected by his crew and all of us in the industry as an honest, soft spoken but hardworking and successful fisherman. The soft spoken part was rare in that industry. Over the years Mark and I, in our own separate ways, invested in the industry and we both had our share of successes and tragedies.

Some years later, Mark decided to give up fishing for his farm in Warden but I always remembered Mark for the good person he was which prompted me in 1988 to ask Mark if he would care to invest with me in a project to construct two large fishing trawlers for the Bering Sea Pollock fishery. Mark did and become one of my main partners in our successful venture and one of the best business partners one could ask for.

Over the years I came to appreciate Mark's occasional call from Warden. In his slow, soft spoken, always positive way, he would call to ask how things were going with the boats and chat a little bit about the fishing industry. No matter what the circumstance, Mark seemed to always have an encouraging yet realistic outlook on business and life. A couple weeks ago in my last phone conversation with Mark, he mentioned he was in the store the other day and noticed the EXIT signs seemed to be getting a little bit brighter. I think it was Mark's way of saying, don't worry about me, I'm okay.

On behalf of the crew and partners of the F/V AURIGA and F/V AURORA we extend our heartfelt sympathies to Margaret O'Brien and Mark's family. I will especially miss Mark as a true friend and business partner.##imported-begin##Jeff Hendricks##imported-end##

July 13, 2012 at 03:40 PM



“ Margaret, our prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Shawn & Diane O'Brien##imported-end##

July 13, 2012 at 04:00 AM



“ My prayers go out to you and your family Mark. Though your gone in this world, we know you are in a better place.##imported-begin##erik alfonso montejano##imported-end##

July 13, 2012 at 02:21 AM



“ Margaret,

Thank you for taking such good care of Uncle Mark during your time together, especially in the last months. He told me about the "green smoothies" you always prepared for him.

When I was young, I always looked forward to his visits, stories and picture "slides". His experiences and accomplishments were amazing and provided one of the positive role models in my life. The O'Brien boys had that affect on me. Tricia and I truly enjoyed our stay and visit with you and Uncle Mark in Warden. We often talk about it and hope to return someday.

God bless you and provide consolation.

Terry & tricia##imported-begin##Terry & Tricia O'Brien##imported-end##

July 12, 2012 at 08:41 PM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
Sincerely,
Doug & Sandi##imported-begin##Doug & Sandi Berg##imported-end##

July 12, 2012 at 12:24 AM



“ My sincere condolences to the family. Mark was a hell of a man and will surely be missed.##imported-begin##Glenn Jackson, Gig Harbor##imported-end##

July 11, 2012 at 03:53 PM



“ Margaret,
We were so sorry to hear of Mark's passing. He was the nicest person we had ever met. You are in our thoughts and prayers.
Larry & Kirsten Rosenberg##imported-begin##Larry & Kirsten Rosenberg##imported-end##

July 11, 2012 at 12:37 AM



“ Margaret...I am so sorry to hear of Marks passing. He was such a nice friend. He will be missed by all who knew him.##imported-begin##Eleanor Sortor##imported-end##

July 10, 2012 at 01:39 PM