



## Thomas Neil Gwyn

July 5, 1920 - October 16, 2016

Thomas Neil Gwyn, 96, a longtime Moses Lake resident passed away Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016 at Samaritan Hospital. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 26th at the United Methodist Church. Please sign the online guestbook or leave a note for the family at [www.kayserschapel.com](http://www.kayserschapel.com) Arrangements are in care of Kayser's Chapel & Crematory.

Neil was born on July 5, 1920 in Flagler, Colorado to Robert Ivan and Mildred (Redding) Gwyn. He met Helen "Mickey" McDonald when the Colorado Dust Bowl blew him out to Oregon in 1935. When he was a senior in high school and she was a freshman, he told her that she could marry him if and when she graduated. They married in July of 1941, just before WWII started. Neil enlisted in the Air Corps ahead of the draft he knew was coming in the hopes of becoming a P-38 fighter pilot. They took only what fit in a suitcase and left for Santa Ana Air Base in California. From there he was sent to New Mexico, not to be a Bombardier, but to stay on and train other Bombardiers. In 1944, Neil was sent to Lincoln, Nebraska to meet up with other crew members of the B-29 that he train with before going to Guam in the Pacific Theater. His first 7 missions were with his original crew and 24 additional missions with his final crew in a lead position before the war ended. Neil returned home as a civilian with the realization that God had been taking care of him because He had heard the prayers of all of those that loved him.

Civilian life became a whirlwind of activity. Their first son Don was born, they

built their first house, managed an auto parts store, moved to southern Oregon to operate a service station, built a second house, welcomed their second son, Dan, and returned to Cottage Grove to work in a Ford dealership where he worked in the service department and sales. They began their extensive travels in securing equipment from Washington and Michigan. They joined the United Methodist Church, remodeled 2 homes and entered the veteran drawing for land in the Columbia Basin. The family moved to Moses Lake in December of 1954 to begin their farming career. After losing their first crop to a big freeze, they slowly built up the farm operation, did custom farm work as their fleet expanded, bought more land and started growing potatoes. Neil became involved in the potato industry with the State Potato Commission and the National Potato Board. Due to these associations, Neil and Mickey traveled to all 50 states as well as numerous countries. Their son Dan now owns and runs the family built farm.

Neil was preceded in death by his parent and his oldest son, Don. Survivors include his beloved wife Mickey; son, Dan (Sue) Gwyn; daughter-in-law, Lynn McRae; grandchildren, James, Charles, Tracy & Monica; 7 great grandchildren.

# Previous Events

## Service

OCT **26**. 2:00 PM (PT)

United Methodist Church  
746 S. Ironwood Dr.  
Moses Lake, WA

# Tribute Wall

DW

“ I met Neil 20 years ago at a reunion of his WWII bomb group and only spent time with him for a weekend but he was such a kind person I felt and still feel like I had known him my whole life. To his wonderful wife Mickey; you two were the perfect example of what a happily married couple looked like. My condolences to you Mickey and your family.

---

**Dan Works** - November 03, 2016 at 01:51 AM

RH

“ I consider myself both blessed and fortunate to have known Neil for the past 25 years There is no doubt he was a fatherly type figure for me. Due to changes in my life I sadly had to tell he and Mickey good bye a few months ago. I am glad I was able to tell him so, but am saddened to know it was truly a good bye.  
My prayers and blessings go out to all his Family and friends.  
Rick Hourigan MD

---

**Rick Hourigan** - October 24, 2016 at 10:15 PM

LL

“ I send condolences to the family of a great man with much wisdom! I appreciated his input as we had conversations with him in the MLUMC.  
Blessings and Prayers are sent your way in God's Love, Linda L Link

---

**Linda L Link** - October 22, 2016 at 12:59 AM

CK

“ We are sorry to hear that Neil has passed away. I guess we thought he would be here forever. What a wonderful man he was, and he will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. Neil had a true passion for living. He was a great friend, who cared about others. Neil found fun everywhere, and took that love of life and humor with him, into every aspect of life. His legacy will live on through his family and friends. RIP Neil.....Love you, Cathy and Paul

---

**Cathy Kersey** - October 19, 2016 at 12:31 PM

TE

Wow!! What a great man we have lost. He will be missed by many. Our kids have grown up thinking the two of you are another set of grandparents. We could have not asked for better neighbors and life role models for all of us. Hold on to the many memories, for they are gods gifts that we never have to say goodbye to. Love and peace this family.

Jose, Tracy, Jeremy, Jordan and Jenna Estrellado

---

**Tracy Estrellado** - October 19, 2016 at 09:21 PM

BS

So sorry for the loss of your grandfather, Charlie, Jim, tracie and Monica. RIP Neil.

---

**brandi sumner** - October 22, 2016 at 02:08 AM