



Dean L. Beck

February 5, 1934 - May 28, 2020

Dean died peacefully from complications of Parkinson's disease. He was 86. Dean was born in Huron, SD, to Art and Ruth Beck. He was the middle of three brothers and was raised during the Great Depression. His family moved to Lebanon, OR, after the Dust Bowl made it impossible for them to continue farming in South Dakota.

Dean was active in sports at Lebanon High School and lettered in basketball and baseball. He was a member of the ROTC and that gave him the opportunity to pursue a business degree at the University of Oregon. He graduated in 1956 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Directly after leaving the UofO, Dean entered the US Army as a radio operator and served in Germany during the waning days of the Korean War. But if you ever heard him tell the story, he liked to say that he spent most of his time playing baseball with the 10th division artillery team!

After being honorably discharged from the army, Dean returned to the

University of Oregon to work on a Masters degree in history. In 1958 he met Barbara Dunkelberger at school and they were married later that year. Initially, he taught grade school and high school history in Gold Beach and Portland before joining the insurance business where he had a long, varied and successful career as a Surety Manager. His career took him and his family from coast to coast, living in Cedar Mill, OR; Daly City, CA; Littleton, CO; Turnersville, NJ; Orinda, CA; Beaverton, OR and eventually, San Francisco, CA.

Barbara and Dean divorced in 1981. Dean later married Lynn (Alexander) O'Connell, a colleague he met while working at Fireman's Fund Insurance in San Francisco, CA.

Dean and Lynn moved to Bend, OR, when they retired in the early 1990s.

Dean was an ardent fan and supporter of the University of Oregon; he never stopped loving and reading about history; he was an avid sports fan and took up running and tennis with a vengeance later in life. He loved reading and watching movies, especially westerns. He and his wife, Lynn, enjoyed traveling and went on numerous vacations all over the world. They became devoted supporters of the arts in Bend, attending numerous plays, musicals and art events. Dean, along with some close friends, started a

group they called The Oval Club which met for food and beer and conversation every Thursday at a different brew pub in Bend. He made lasting friends wherever he went and in some circles, was known for his "Beck jokes" as he was always quick with a pun or humorous anecdote that most people could only respond to with a groan.

Dean is survived by his wife Lynn Beck of Bend, OR; his brother, Bruce Beck of Arvada, CO; four children from his marriage to Barbara Dunkelberger: Stuart Beck (Joanne) of Boston, MA; Matthew Beck (Karen) of Portland, OR; Maria Beck of Lewiston, ME; and Kathleen Beck of Bend, OR. He is also survived by Lynn's children, Colleen LaFontaine (Jean-Francis) and Brian O'Connell of Chicago, IL; 7 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

A celebration of life will be planned for a future date.

Donations in his honor can be made to Partners In Care of Bend, Oregon:
<https://www.partnersbend.org/donate-to-bend-hospice/>

Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home is honored to serve the family.
541-382-2471

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Obituary Wall*



Niswonger Reynolds Funeral Home & Greenwood Cemetery - May 18, 2023 at 02:46 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album*



Niswonger Reynolds Funeral Home & Greenwood Cemetery - May 18, 2023 at 02:46 PM

KD

“ *My condolences to Uncle Dean's family and friends. Love, Kelly Dunkelbeger-Ivey*

Kelly Dunkelberger-Ivey - June 25, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ Dean and I were married for 23 years and had many adventures along the way. We remained friends over the years. I send my condolences to Lynn and my prayers for a healing from her hospitalization. I recall the first time I met Lynn she was carrying a huge bouquet into my condo where we put on a party for Joanne & Stuart's graduation from OHSU or Lewis & Clark. Lynn & Dean came from Bend to our party. We met many times for birthdays for Payton in their home in Bend. Dean and our family lived in many places during 23 years, from Oregon to Calif. to Colorado, and New Jersey then back to Calif. and finally back to Oregon. We saw quite a bit of our Nation during our marriage. His parents became my parents, and his brothers & their wives stayed my brothers & sisters over the years. Barbara (Dunkelberger) Beck Hess

Barbara D. Beck Hess - June 23, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ With love.

John & Lindsay - June 15, 2020 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ Dean L. Beck

Ryan, Cait, & Eleni - June 14, 2020 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ My cousin Tim sent me this photo of my dad visiting Paris, taken on one of his trips with the Army while stationed in Germany. It perfectly captures the very funny and whimsical side of him.

Matt Beck - June 11, 2020 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ *Dean L. Beck*

Team DeWolfe - June 10, 2020 at 12:00 AM

HS

“ *Dear Lynn, Owen and I enjoyed so much meeting up with you and Dean at various events about town. He lived life fully up to the end and you are both an inspiration to us. Dean will be missed by many.*

Helen Seidler - June 09, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *Dean L. Beck*

Bend Funeral Homes - June 09, 2020 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ *While some of us have left Oval Table meetings with the Fire Dept. (ambulance). He arrived more than once via Fire Truck. The only member to do so. David Costello*

David Costello - June 09, 2020 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *Although a newer and infrequent attendee of the Oval Table, I had a number of memorable conversations with Dean and enjoyed playing Pickle Ball with him and my wife at Hete Sugnet's home. Despite Parkenson's he put his all into Pickle Ball as he seem to do in all of his life's endeavors. Extremely articulate accopanied with a sharp witt is what I will remember best about Dean. In salute to his family, friends and especially to Dean's Oval Table commerades, I bid Dean a fond adieu.*

Don McLean - June 09, 2020 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ *Dean L. Beck*

Gretchen, Mike, Delaney and Brendan Mullen - June 09, 2020 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ *Dear Lynne, I am so sorry to hear of Dean's passing. He was a wonderful person and he meant a lot to me. He always greeted me with a smile and an eagerness to chat, at OLLI. My sincere condolences to you. Suzanne Butterfield*

Suzanne Butterfield - June 07, 2020 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ *I remember Dean as an avid Trai Blazer fan. Lynn I am so sorry to hear of Dean's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Karen Leagjeld*

Karen Leagjeld - June 07, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *Dean L. Beck*

Brenny Brenneman - June 07, 2020 at 12:00 AM