



Robert Funk

April 12, 1931 - November 8, 2010

REFLECTIONS OF MY LIFE AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF MY SON

I was born in Canby, Oregon, to Robert and Bertie Funk. I started school like the other kids but I also learned to work at a young age. I developed a love for cars and for Shirley Ann Hartley in the '50s when we graduated from Canby High. I had to let go of my teenage ways when I married my high school sweetheart on October 15, 1950.

I was a young married man starting out when the Army called, and my new bride had to let me go – but just for a short while. The years I spent in the Army were an honor and a privilege. A few short years later, I was back with my wife and starting a family. We let go of Canby but didn't go far – and we bought a home in Gladstone. I went back to work at the paper mill, Crown Zellerbach. The name would change many times over the years, but the steady job always allowed me to support my family. We had a daughter, Suzi, in 1957, and our son, Mike, followed in 1959. Sharon was born in 1961, but only lived a few hours. We were broken-hearted but had to let her go.

For the next 20 years, we focused on each other and raising our kids. There were some years when we both had to work to make ends meet. I guess we did okay, though; the kids have told us more than once that Mom and I were always there for them, providing for them and inspiring them with a good work ethic.

I had my first of several heart attacks in 1969, then open-heart surgery. I even died for four minutes on the operating table in 1970, but it was not yet my time to go. I was so proud to watch my kids grow into young adults—graduate from Gladstone High School, and get married. With all our love and support, Shirley and I let the kids go to start their own lives. They have stayed close, raising their own families here in Gladstone, too. We were blessed with grandkids – Jeff, Katie and Tony – each unique and special in their own way.

After 43 years of shiftwork in the paper mill – through the floods and strikes—we made it. I filed my retirement papers in 1993, and to the mill I said, “Goodbye – it’s time to let me go.”

In 1995, my loving wife shared her long time desire of living at the beach. Once again, it’s time to go, from Gladstone to the Oregon coast. Lincoln City welcomed us with open arms and many new friends – our retirement home.

We've suffered through the ailments as retired people do; we have our good days and our bad days. We love the beach and really enjoy it when the kids and grandkids come to visit.

On a dark day in October 2005, Shirley falls sick with cancer for the second time. It's not fair, the cancer has won this time and I've lost my dear wife of 56 years. It's hard for us to let her go. I'm lost and lonely here; I miss her so.

The kids come by when they can. If it wasn't for caring friends, life would be empty. I fell and broke my back and the kids begged me to move back. It's great to see the kids more. I'll miss my dear friends in Lincoln City, but it's time to let me go.

Aches and pains are more frequent these days – in and out of the hospital more, I'm getting tired of the pain. I've now seen each of my grandkids happily married. I wish so much that Shirley was here to see it all.

I fell again a few months ago, and while the x-rays said my knee was not broken, they found the cancer. I guess it's my time to go.

Now there's new doctors – both children are doing all they can for me. I'm glad to be back close to them. I'm getting weaker, and things are getting harder to remember. I sleep more but the pain is more constant as well. I feel like I'm ready; it's time for me to go.

My days are at an end; I hope to see my dear wife soon. To my friends and family left behind – don't cry, I am no longer in pain. Remember me on a good day –as those are my memories of you. And it's okay, to just let me go.

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Previous Events

Graveside Service

NOV **15**. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (PT)

Willamette National Cemetery
11800 SE Mt Scott Blvd
Portland, OR 97086

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Funk*

January 28, 2023 at 02:51 PM



“ *Loving memories.*

Anita Green - November 19, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mike and Lori and family, Suzi Dan and family, Sooo sorry we can not be there. Bob was a great guy! He welcomed us in your family way back in 1978 when we were missing our family. They become parents to us and made us feel loved. Will miss Bob very much! You loved our kids and we missed seeing them grow with you all. We know he si in such a better place. Love you all!*

Kathy and Rick Collins and family - November 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time, Suzi. Take comfort in the fact that your Dad is no longer in pain and that he is reunited with your Mom. Love, Jeri*

Jerilyn Gauthier - November 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. I lost my dad 5 years ago and it does leave a hole but truly, good memories keep him close. You'll find comfort in yours as well. My prayers are with you and your family.*

Carol Blake - November 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM