



Leslie "Buck" Owen Weatherill

December 13, 1921 - September 17, 2019

Leslie Owen Weatherill, 97, died peacefully in his sleep on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 in Woodburn, Oregon.

He was born December 13, 1921 in Falls City, Oregon. "No bigger than a buckshot" one of his uncles commented. From then on he was called "Buckshot" and then just "Buck".

When he was two, his parents, Charles and Annabelle, moved with his brother, Alvie, to Silverton where he became big brother to sister Celia. He lived in Silverton throughout his grade school and high school days, moving eleven times within the town, always with a cow in the backyard and a sumptuous garden to get them through the depression and lean years.

Buck followed in his mother's footsteps and became a devout Catholic at an early age, serving as an altar boy and always lending a helping hand wherever he could. He was a natural athlete and excelled in all sports in high school, becoming the captain of the football team, his favorite sport, when he was a senior. After graduation he joined the 41st National Guard Infantry Division and on December 7, 1941 the 41st was called to protect the Northwest coast from Japanese invasion. Soon after, the 41st mobilized for South Pacific duty, and were sent to overseas. A true American hero, he trained in Australia and fought the Japanese army in New Guinea, Biak Island, and the Philippines. He did not see American soil for four years, returning at the end of the war in August, 1945 to relieved and grateful parents.

After returning, he met the love of his life, Jean McClanathan. It was love at first sight, he liked to say. They courted for one year, while he attended University of Portland and she attended University of Oregon. They were married August 25, 1946 and moved to Vanport, Oregon where their first child was born. After the historic Vanport flood, in which they lost all of their possessions, Buck continued his studies and graduated with a teaching degree in English and Science. He moved his growing family to St. Paul, Oregon where he taught and coached for fourteen years, taking St. Paul's football team to the state championship in 1959. By now he had four children to raise on one small salary, so

he worked summers to make ends meet and continued in the Guards for another twenty three years, before retiring as a Captain.

He moved his family to Woodburn in 1959, switching from St. Paul parish to St. Luke parish, where he was an active member for sixty years. He taught English at WHS and coached every sport, ending with golf. He was very proud that one of his golfers won the state trophy. In 1972 he and Jean hosted Tim Bakalakos, a foreign exchange student, for one year. They remained close until his death. He finally retired in 1984 but that did not stop him from devoting hundreds of hours to volunteering with St. Vincent De Paul. He served as President of that organization for nine years, helping local families with everything they needed in order to take care of their families. He brought communion to the elderly in their homes, did perpetual prayer at 3:00 in the morning at Sacred Heart parish in Gervais, OR, and was a reader for mass for many years. He was an avid golfer and won many golf tournaments, trophies, and scored five hole-in-ones! He was named the number one golfer at Senior Estates several times, and was quite proud of his golfing achievements. He and Jean enjoyed traveling and took many tours to Europe with friends. He loved to garden and had a green thumb. Golf and gardening were the two things he missed most when he moved to assisted living at age 94.

Events

OCT **Rosary** 09:30AM

4

St Luke Catholic Church
417 Harrison St, Woodburn, OR, US, 97071

OCT **Memorial Mass** 10:00AM

4

St Luke Catholic Church
417 Harrison St, Woodburn, OR, US, 97071

OCT **Committal Service** 01:30PM

16

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

Comments



“ Dear Weatherill family,
I am deeply saddened by Buck's passing. I was a Jesuit Volunteer in Woodburn in 2000-2001. Buck and Jean took me under their wing, invited me over to weekly dinners and to watch whatever game was on that night. They were such beautiful people. Buck became a dear friend. He was a surrogate grandfather of sorts for me. We'd have a beer and watch baseball together. He was such a devout man. So committed to his faith, to the Church, and to the poor. He'll always be a role model for me.

We'd exchange letters every couple of months. I'd tell him about our growing family and he'd tell me about his golf game, or what was going on at St. Luke's Parish. Every few years we'd visit Buck, and were lucky enough to see him this July. He looked great! And was in great spirits. While our boys played around his apartment my wife and I talked with him about his life, Jean, my time as a Jesuit Volunteer and the funny stories that happened that year. We had a wonderful time. I embraced him one last time, and thanked God that I got to know Buck.

Buck, I will miss you. I'll miss sending you letters and reading yours. I'll miss our visits when we make the cross-country trip from Boston. I'll never forget you Buck.
With love,
Dan Daly
daly77@me.com

DAN DALY - October 22 at 08:50 AM



“ My name is Ken Allen and I had the privilege of know Mr. Weatherill. I am so saddened to hear of his passing. I just spoke to him in August and he was sharp as ever. I spent many hours with him through high school as his TA, english student and on the golf team at Woodburn High School. He always took care of my every need being the only State champion in golf that WHS had ever had. We did it in 1984 the year he retired. I have stayed in touch with him often over the years. I would try to visit as often as possible. He was such a big part of my life through high school and after. He loved to hear about my wife and 3 daughters two are teachers and he loved that. He would always have our Christmas card on his fridge when i would visit. I will miss our conversations about golf and the past we shared together and the love of the Game of golf and all sports really. i was so lucky to have known him, the kindest person I ever knew.

ken Allen
503-804-2776

ken allen - October 08 at 11:45 PM



“ I had the good fortune of meeting Buck as a teenager, before the Internet was a thing, when chivalry and decency was still in vogue. Buck's positive influence absolutely reverberates through the generations. In spite of my trailer park pedigree, Buck's grandson, Damon, befriended me in the 80's and I came to know the Weatherill family better than I knew my own. Buck's son Mark was, and still is, a tremendous influence in my life. Buck's examples of selfless service, overwhelming kindness and amazing work ethic were passed along to his family. I came to understand this first through his son Mark and family rock/glue, Chris, and subsequently through Buck's grandchildren, Damon, Jake and Courtney. All are ridiculously hardworking, kindhearted family-focused people who I am proud to call friends. I give thanks to men like Buck who, despite unimaginable challenges (the Great Depression, WWII, the invention of SPAM, hippies, etc.) he remained throughout his life a man of deep religious conviction and unshakable principles.

Cheers to a great man and a life well lived.

Clayton Miller
Reno, NV

Clay Miller - October 04 at 01:42 PM



“ Mr. Weatherill was one of my favorite teachers. He will be missed.
Judy Hamilton Ficek
Class of 1972



Judy Ficek - October 02 at 07:55 PM



“ Our thoughts are with the Weatherill family after the passing of our teacher, coach and friend. You were extremely fortunate to be born to such wonderful people. It's good to know that his passing was peaceful.
Ted and Deb Steinke

Ted Steinke - September 29 at 12:20 PM