



We Remember

George Woodbury 1937-2021

If there is one word to describe my dad, it is production. Dad was always busy doing something. He worked until his very last days. Even up to the end, he had plans to get better—he had so much more he wanted to do.

George played just as hard as he worked, always looking for something to do. He continued to learn and was always interested. When he found something he liked, he would study it and search for the best way to do it, always improving how it's done. He encouraged us to do anything we were interested in, as long as it was productive.

My father was born Feb. 24, 1937, in Cleveland, Ohio, and raised in Indiana. He graduated from Purdue University with a degree in forestry. He married our mother, Joey, in 1960, before joining the Air Force. He spent five years in the US Air Force as a navigator. He flew reconnaissance over Cuba during the Cuban missile crisis.

George and Joey enjoyed their time in the service, exploring new places to live. In 1965, they moved to Thorne Bay, Alaska. George laid out timber sales and built logging roads. He became timber division manager for Ketchikan Pulp Co. (Louisiana Pacific) and moved to Ketchikan in 1969. In 1986 he became vice president of Alaska Pulp Corp. in Sitka. He later started his own business as a timber consultant.

In the late '90s, my parents moved to Wrangell, where George worked for Silver Bay Logging. He consulted for Viking Lumber and Alaska Forest Association until his final days. He was an expert in all

things timber and became an icon of the timber industry.

My sister and I were lucky kids, since our parents started taking us to Kauai in 1972. We would spend a month there every year while the woods were shut down in Alaska. My father loved both Alaska and Hawaii. Later in life, my parents spent summers in Wrangell and winters in Kauai.

Dad loved to play golf. All our trips to Hawaii included lots of golf. He liked to swim, body surf, kayak, windsurf, scuba dive, paddleboard, and shoot guns and bows. He liked to work with wood. He was a boat captain and a sailor. He enjoyed fishing and hunting. He loved to shop and plan for it. He had a different style: he liked to hunt and fish, although he didn't care if he caught or shot anything. We very rarely caught a fish and killed just one deer. Come to think of it, he was a terrible fisherman and didn't hunt worth a damn.

He did like to walk in the woods, be on the water, be outdoors, and spend time with us. He went scuba diving with Jill, windsurfed with me, and golfed with Brett, not unheard of to be all in the same day. Brett and Dad were great friends and did all kinds of fun things together. He and our parents lived in the same town in Wrangell and spent every day together, best friends.

My sister Jill, an angel, took care of my parents for almost three years. Jill provided care and comfort that cannot be matched. Mom and dad's late years were as good as they possibly could be. Mom and dad were married for almost 60 years. We lost mom in September 2019. We take comfort that they are now together, in heaven, sitting together on a nice beach, looking at the waves, having a gin and tonic, and visiting with friends.

We are so fortunate that we had such great parents. They will be missed.

George passed peacefully at home with his children in Kauai on Jan. 11, 2021, at age 83. A funeral service was held January 20 at Saint Raphael Church in Koloa, Hawaii. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Wrangell Golf Club, PO Box 2199, Wrangell, AK 99929, where George was a founding member and life-long supporter.

The family hopes to have a celebration of life in Wrangell this summer.

Donald Wermlinger 1931-2020

Don, the son of Todd and Mary Telliho Wermlinger, was born in Meadville, Pennsylvania. His middle-school years were spent between Pittsburg (McKeesport) where his father worked in steel mills for the war effort and his grandmother's farm in Meadville. He graduated from the tech-

nical high school in Meadville. His technical background enabled him to qualify for the Navy Blue Angel flight team as a plane captain.

After military service, Don graduated from Penn State University School of Agriculture-Forestry, class of 1958. He worked for the US Forest Service on a number of different national forests: the Umpqua National Forest, Olympic National Forest, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, and Boise National Forest. During those years he designed roads, planned timber harvest, fought fires, served recreation, and grew trees for reforestation.

While on the Olympic National Forest, Don lived in Shelton, where he received the Distinguished Service Award for presiding over several organizations and helping build the First United Methodist Church. On the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, he developed the huckleberry management plan, which included roads and parking lots for Mt. Adams. At nurseries in Carson and Boise, he helped produce and process over 204 million tree seedlings. A favorite quote of his was by George Creek: "Of all who plant and tend a crop, only the man of God and the man of the forest dedicate their lives to a certain faith in an everlasting harvest to be enjoyed in some future time by others."

He had a lively curiosity, loved a good joke, Dixieland Jazz, and people in all their varieties.

Don married Sara Annette Skinner in 1958, raising three children: Sari Lynne Wermlinger, Robert Otis Wermlinger, and Susan Elizabeth Joslyn.

In 1975, he married Sydney Coleman Bryant. In 1986, he retired to the Coleman farm in St. Paul, Oregon. Later, Don and Sydney moved to Friendsview Retirement Community, in Newberg, Oregon, in 2017. He was predeceased by his parents; brothers Richard and William; step-son Gregory Coleman Bryant; and his beloved uncles. He is survived by Sydney; Robert (Francesca), Susan Joslyn (Lee); and Sari Lynne, her son Davyd Loper, and his daughter Trinity Loper.

Services will be a private grave-side service and a memorial if gathering is permitted later.

Contributions may be made to the First United Methodist Church, FISH food bank (both of which are located in Newberg) or a favorite charity. A scholarship will be established at Penn State Mont Alto for forestry students. *WUF*

HOPKINS FORESTRY

Forest Managers performing herbicide application, young stand management, harvest management, contract compliance, inventories, and forestry/natural resources education



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