

10-16-2003 BFA Thursday

Marion Davidson, 84



Marion Duane John "Swede" Davidson peacefully passed into the hand of God on October 3, 2003. He was born on August 11, 1919 in Wilson Creek Washington to parents John and Hilda Davidson.

The family moved to Bonners Ferry, Idaho in 1921. After graduation from Bonners Ferry High School in 1938, Marion attended the University of Idaho, obtaining a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture in 1943.

While at the University, he joined the Marine Corps, was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and sent to the Pacific Theater with the Third Marine Division. He participated in the forced landing during the initial invasion and liberation of Guam. When the war ended, he was on a ship which was to be in the first wave landing on the Japanese home islands.

Marion returned to the family farm in Bonners Ferry after the war. He met another returning World War II veteran, Frances Howe, who had served in the Army. They were married in 1946. Their daughter, Linda Gail, was born in 1952.

In 1956, he left farming to start a road construction company. He served the people of the State of Idaho for ten terms in the Idaho House of Representatives. While a member of the House, Swede served on the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee and as Democratic Caucus Chair from 1974 to 1982.

After leaving the legislature, he was appointed to the Idaho Building Authority and later to the Board of Directors of the Idaho Transportation Department.

Swede leaves his wife of 57 years, Frances in Bonners Ferry, his daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Tony Tompkins in Liberty Lake, Wash., and two much loved granddaughters, Rachel Tompkins of Portland, Ore. and Sarah Parson of Moscow, Idaho.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, October 18, 2003, at 11 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bonners Ferry. Memorial contributions may be directed to Bonners Ferry Trinity Lutheran Church; University of Idaho-Marion Davidson Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 443147, Moscow, Idaho 83844-3147.