

Bonnors Ferry Herald, Thursday, December 13, 2007

Eugene Hillary McKenney, 79

Eugene Hillary McKenney, 79, died of heart failure and went to be with the Lord Jesus on Dec. 3, 2007.

A memorial service is being planned for him in January 2008. It will be held in the Vancouver, Wash., area. If you would like to attend and need more information, call Daniel or Bobbi McKenney, 773-3492.

Mr. McKenney, a resident of Bonnors Ferry for the past decade, was born in Lexington, Ky., on May 4, 1928, and had recently moved near Vancouver, Wash., for health reasons.

He was married to Agnes Katherine Ross (then Agnes Katherine Adams) and they had a son, Robert Gene. Gene was married for 42 years to Sylvia Alice (Sam), who preceded him in death on March 15, 2007.

They had a son, Daniel William, and a daughter, Theresa Jean.

To his family and friends, Gene was a very jovial person who never lost his sense of humor despite many hardships. One of his greatest thrills was sitting atop the famous racehorse, Man-O-War, when he was a boy.

Gene grew up during the Depression and joined the Marines to serve his country in 1945. After some months, Gene was discharged because he had flat feet. After the war, he served with a civilian construction crew, helping rebuild Okinawa.

Most of his life, he was a truck driver, drove a bus or worked in construction. He worked on Glen Canyon and Boulder dams when his children were young.

If Gene ever had an enemy in his whole life, no one ever knew about it. He loved everyone. He was a dedicated Christian, but never wore his faith on his sleeve. He participated in various Christian denominations throughout his life and joyfully embraced Christian universalism toward the end of his life.

Gene loved to travel and one of his favorite trips was a one-week Caribbean cruise with his son Rob in 1995. He lived and worked all over the country.

He will be greatly missed by his surviving sisters, Betty Gale Pearl's four children, stepson Billy Thomas Adams 59, Robert Gene McKenney, 55, Thresa Jean Rodriguez, 39, and Daniel William McKenney, 36; 14 grandchildren and a great grandchild. Another sister, Dorothy Brown, survives him.