



Alvin Benson Christie

December 5, 1934 - December 19, 2017

Kind and gentle, Alvin Christie lost his battle with cancer on December 19th, 2017 at his home in Dundee, Oregon.

Alvin arrived into the family of Earl and Flossie Christie on December 5th, 1934. As the 5th child of 7 siblings, he enjoyed life raised in a log house on Chehalem Mountain in Newberg, Oregon where everyone was welcomed; friends, family and strangers alike. He attended Newberg schools and went on to study at Portland State University and learned to be a watchmaker at OIT in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

A dedicated wrestler, Alvin was a runner-up to the 1956 Olympic Team. After the Olympic Trials, he enlisted and coached the US Army wrestling team in Germany during his military service. His passion for wrestling continued at the Multnomah Athletic Club where he wrestled for 15 years. At age 40, his final wrestling competition was at the AAU National Masters.

Alvin enjoyed the majority of 34 years at Tektronix as a research lab technician at Tektronix where he and a co-worker received a patent for their invention of the "Travelling Wave Deflector of Electron Beams."

Alvin was very involved in his community; as a member of the Dundee Planning Committee he worked to acquire property for the development of

Billick Park. Alvin and one of his pals established the Earl and Edna Gillis Wrestling Tournament which continues to provide funding for scholarships.

In retirement, Alvin donned his climbing spurs and chainsaw and began topping and taking down trees near homes in housing developments; a skill learned from his father in his youth. He always loved the challenges and hard work that came with taking down problematic trees.

A wonderful husband, father, brother, and friend, Alvin will be missed by all who knew him. He was always happily helping others. Everything he did was laced with his funny sense of humor, compassion, and love of life. Alvin is survived by his wife Virginia Ritzer-Christie, children Julie Marshall, Greta Nieuw, Eric Christie, Mat Christie, Chad Ritzer and April Burbank, seventeen grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Alvin loved the outdoors, and especially the Rogue River where his ashes will be laid to rest. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society or Willamette Valley Hospice.

Tribute Wall

JM

“Loved my Dad. We took many walks together and had lots of time to talk about life. The most honored day was December 3, when we all gathered to hear him accept Jesus as his Savior and baptize him. Just know how much my Dad loved you all. Everytime I prune trees and cut hair, I will be thinking of him. Julie via Greta's phone.

Julie Marshalk - December 29, 2017 at 04:11 PM

JT

“ I first met Zeke in 1953 at Oregon Tech Institute (OTI) in Klamath Falls, Oregon. We were both there on wrestling scholarships. Since we were both in the same weight class we spent many hours working out & competing on the mat. That is how we became friends. The wrestling program was discontinued after one season.

We had occasional contact through the years. The last time was at Mercer Lake Resort near Florence, Oregon in August 2015 where my wife LaVerne & I celebrated our 60th Wedding Anniversary party. To our great joy Al and his wife Virginia and Al's daughter were in attendance.

Al was not in the best of health but he still had that mischievous smile on his face and was as always having fun.

Our sincere condolences Virginia and family

R.I.P. Old Friend

J.C. & LaVerne Thorp

Along with the above message I would like to add that we named our 1st born son after Al. Bruce Alvin Thorp.

Zeke always had a special place in our hearts. LaVerne

J.C. & LaVerne Thorp - December 23, 2017 at 07:00 PM

AA

“ Angie Atkinson lit a candle in memory of Alvin Benson Christie



Angie Atkinson - December 22, 2017 at 12:16 PM

KC

“*Zeke as I always knew Al, I considered to be a very good friend. The thing that we probably had most in common was Olympic and Collegiate style wrestling. We both worked at Tektronics in Beaverton and shared many experiences there. But what I remembered most is that we shared the experience of helping each other build our homes.*”

"I enjoyed watching Zeke's children grow up from the time they lived in a little house in Dundee until they became parents themselves. One of his grandchildren went to the school where I taught in Sherwood."

"Zeke and his Dad were avid Portland State Wrestling fans."

"My last conversation with Zeke was in September. We had a great conversation! I know he will be missed by many more people than he would have imagined."

Ken Carsley

Ken Carsley - December 21, 2017 at 04:51 PM

NT

Love you and miss you, but I know you are not in pain anymore, I know that you are in the presence of the Lord and all our loved ones who have gone before us. Give them all a big hug and kiss from me, especially Dave, I am looking forward to the day that we can all be together again forever. Love number two

Number two - December 30, 2017 at 10:54 AM