



# **Willis Webster "Little Bill" Headrick**

APR 29, 1931 - JUL 30, 2015



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**W**illis Webster "Little Bill" Headrick April 29, 1931 - July 30, 2015

Willis Webster "Little Bill" Headrick went home to be with his Lord and Savior on July 30, 2015 at the age of 84. He passed peacefully surrounded by his family at Willamette Falls Hospital in Oregon City. Bill was born April 29, 1931 in Oregon City, Oregon. He was the younger of two children born to John Robert Headrick and Dorothy Eva (Swallow) Headrick.

He lived with his family in Lake Oswego, attending Lake Oswego Elementary school for first grade. In 1938 his family moved into the Mt. Pleasant area of Oregon City where he lived until 1946, attending Mt. Pleasant Elementary School.

Bill was active in 4-H in Clackamas County. He raised hogs and sheep on the family farm. Beginning in 1943 at age 12 he began attending Clackamas County 4-H Camp, the first such camp held in Oregon. It was there that he earned the name "Little Bill". There were two campers named Bill at camp, and he was the smaller of the two. The name stuck as he continued the tradition of being at 4-H Camp for the next seventy years, missing only the two years that he was on active duty in the Navy. He held every position from camper to counselor to staff member to director - the only position he didn't hold was that of cook, which the other attendees were glad of. He last attended camp for his 70th year just a week before he passed away.

In 1946 the family moved to a farm in Beavercreek, Oregon. Bill attended Oregon City High School, where he played baseball, and wrestled, graduating in 1949.

After graduation, he attended Oregon State University until he got the call to serve from Uncle Sam. Bill enlisted in the Navy on January 4, 1951, and served as a machinist mate on the USS Doyle DMS-34, a destroyer minesweeper. He saw duty in Korea, China, Kwajalein, and Guam until he was honorably discharged from the Navy on July 6, 1953. Just ten days after returning home from the service, he married Margaret Clara Colegrove on July 19, 1953.



## Obituary

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He returned to college, and after three years and two children, graduated with a bachelor's degree in agriculture from Oregon State University in June of 1956. He worked for the Oregon State Game Commission for a short time in Pendleton, then returned back to the family farm which he had purchased from his mother, where he lived until shortly before he passed.

After he returned to Beavercreek, he worked at McLaren School for Boys in Woodburn, Oregon, and beginning on July 1, 1960 he worked as a deputy sheriff for the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office until he retired as a captain on Apr. 30, 1993.

Bill was very active with the American Red Cross, teaching First Aid and CPR to many thousands of students for over 30 years.

He served as a deacon and an elder at Lower Highland Bible Church in Beavercreek, and in later years attended Clackamas Bible Church. His hobbies included fishing, fly-tying, and ice cream. When he retired, he bought a boat that he was very proud of. He was active in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, teaching boater safety, and served as flotilla commander in 1972. He held an amateur radio license, KB7RIH, and enjoyed checking into the Northwest Traffic and Training Net.

He is survived by his wife Margaret; his sister Amy Rose Shuey of Chemult, Oregon; and his 4 children, Charles Robert (Bob) Headrick of Corvallis, Oregon, Richard Michael Headrick of Clackamas, Oregon, Margaret Elizabeth (Ellie) Brandel of Milwaukie, Oregon, and John Edward Headrick of Milwaukie, Oregon.

He is also survived by nine grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

A memorial service will be held at Clackamas Bible Church, 15655 SE Johnson Rd., Clackamas, OR 97015, on Saturday, August 8 at 3:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, the family would prefer a donation to Clackamas Bible Church at the above address, or the Clackamas County 4-H Camp program through the Clackamas County Extension Office at 200 Warner Milne Road, Oregon City, OR 97045



## Tribute Wall

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FF

**Friends And Family** posted:

Friends and Family uploaded 2 to the gallery.

February 15 at 5:00 PM

RI

**Rick** posted:

4-H means a lot to my wife. Bill Headrick was an icon in Clackamas Co 4-H.

August 9 at 5:00 PM

ZP

**Zella Pray** posted:

So sorry for your loss. Bill was a true man of God. I witnessed first hand how God used him as an instrument for healing. The angels must be rejoicing in welcoming him home.

August 4 at 5:00 PM

LE

**Linda And Paul Erickson** posted:

Little Bill was a giant in the community. Anyone who knows him will never forget him and the legacy has left for the youth and families of Clackamas County and beyond. He was loved by all. His jolly sense of humor has my brain laughing, and it was rare to not see a big grin (just like in his picture) on his face!!! He touched so many lives in so many ways and we all are richer by having our paths eclipsed by "Little Bill."With love, Linda and Paul Erickson

August 4 at 5:00 PM

LK

**Laurie Kimmell** posted:

Some people are put in a position for a reason. Little Bill was one of those put in position to influence future generations. His presence was known and felt during my days as a 4-H Camp Counselor. All of the camp counselors met in front of the fellowship hall. We told stories of misadventure and jokes that our Mothers would cringe if they heard us. The next morning we found out that Little Bill Headrick was across the creek listening and observing us. NOTHING got passed him.

August 4 at 5:00 PM



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**Jacquie Dewaalmiller** posted:

Little Bill I wish you God speed. You and your team made 4-H camp a wonderful experience. I loved the mind teasers that you and Mama B would come up with and the warm fuzzies and the skits and the git tar. So many memories and many lessons learned and taught. I am glad that I got to experience camp with you. I am also glad that I stopped and talked to you when you were at the Doctors a while back. My Mom told me some stories about growing up with you. Please give Beverly (Stevens)deWaal and Mama B a hug from me and lead them in "The Cat Came Back" May God hold your family in the palm of His hand during this time of sorrow. You will not be forgotten. Thank you for so many things. Jacquie deWaalMiller

August 3 at 5:00 PM



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EL

Ellie posted:

Daddy, I am not even sure where to start with 57 years of love. I have so many memories- fishing, coffee times, spending time on the boat, catching my first salmon.it might have been your boat, and your pole, but it WAS my fish I remember when we were halibut fishing in very rough waters, and I sat down and stuck my feet in the portholes so I would not go overboard.. I remember one time when we were fishing the ghost hole at the mouth of the Columbia when a fog bank rolled in. I remember casually mentioning it and you told me to reel the line in NOW. It was literally minutes before the water was so choppy, and our boat was tossing and rocking and the wind was howling. That was the only time I thought were not going to make it home. I shared with you that this must have been how the disciples felt when Jesus was sleeping on their boat during the storm.I could go on with lots more memories, but instead I want to say thank you for some of the things you instilled in my life.At a young age, I learned the importance of honesty and truthfulness. I only lied to you once..I will never forget the punishment I received. But I never lied to you again.You taught me how to forgive when I did not want to. I remember you making me call Carolyn Meyers after we had a fight in 4th grade and apologize then you explained that it is not ok to fight.You instilled in me the value of the words I love you. Those words were not to be used casually, or lightly. To say I love you meant I was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for someone. It meant that person was more important than me. I still hold that teaching close to my heart, and do not use the phrase lightly.You taught me to pray for specifics, not generalities. You taught me that when I pray for others needs, mine seem minor. You taught me that when I pray, God will ALWAYS answer. The answer may be yes, wait, or no because I have a better plan.You taught me to journal how God provided for me, and answered prayers. The reason was when times were difficult, I could re-read past trials, and see how God answers. I STILL journal how God provides.You taught me to read my Bible daily. I learned that by watching you and mamma do that. You were consistent. I bet you did not know I was watching, but I was. On my 16th Birthday, you took me on my first date. You bought me a dozen lavender roses. We talked about what were important qualities to look for in a mate. We made a pact that night, that I would not date anyone who was not a potential mate, and they needed to ask you first..only once did I beg you to tell the guy no..but that is a different story.You taught me about hard work ethics. If I wanted something, I had to work for it and earn it. You would encourage me and help me, but I had to work for it. Dad, you encouraged me to do my best. I may not have always been successful, but you told me if I did my best, that is all that mattered.You prayed for us, and let us know it many times.You taught me the importance of standing up for what I believe. You also told me that there may be times I would stand alone, but dont abandon my convictions.You said people would watch me all the time to see if what I said, and believed is how I really lived. You taught me that at the end of life, the best thing to leave behind is a legacy. Dad, I hope when my time comes, I can leave a legacy like you left for me. You loved us well, and we were your earthly treasure. I am most honored to call you dad! I love you daddy.you are forever in my heart.Love, Ellie

July 31 at 5:00 PM



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HF

**Hodder Family** posted:

What an amazing, wonderful Man!!! We are praying for comfort as you go through this time of loss and grief.

August 1 at 5:00 PM

GJ

**Gail Jacobs** posted:

Bill was a wonderful man. I enjoyed working with him for ten years. I know he will be greatly missed by all. So sorry for your loss, there will never be another Bill.

August 1 at 5:00 PM

DL

**Dawn Wells Libby** posted:

Little Bill you were so wonderful to all of use 4H campers and councilers. You were always there ro give a hug when it was needed. I know when we all go home you and Mama B will be waiting to give us warm fuzzies. Thanks you for being there.

August 1 at 5:00 PM

DA

**Daphne** posted:

Though we all miss you, everyone waiting for you to join the party is anxiously awaiting your arrival at The Pearly Gates. Give my mamma a hug when you see her. Love you lots Little Bill

July 31 at 5:00 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Willis by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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