



# Don Melvin Whelden

JUN 25, 1931 - AUG 8, 2025



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# Don Melvin Whelden

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**D**on Melvin Whelden, 94, passed away peacefully on August 8, 2025, in Gladstone, Oregon. Born on June 25, 1931 in Oregon City, Oregon to Walter and Mary Whelden, Don faced life's challenges with resilience from an early age.

At just 13 years old, he began working as a newspaper delivery boy for the Oregon City Enterprise. His strong work ethic carried him through a long and dedicated career at the Safeway Bakery in Clackamas, where he worked from 1960 until his retirement in 1995.

Don served in the Army during the Korean War and endured the hardship of being a Prisoner of War in North Korea from July 27 to September 28, 1950. His strength and perseverance during that time remained a testament to his character throughout his life.

On July 4, 1972, Don was baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses. He was deeply committed to his faith and known for being zealous in his ministry work. He is lovingly remembered by his wife of 70 years, Barbara Whelden; daughters Suzanne Whelden and Pamela Whelden; son Richard Whelden and wife Margie Whelden; grandchildren Aimee Anderson, Jennifer Sudar, Matthew Whelden, Levi Winkler, Dane Clancy, and Jacob Wheeler; and great-granddaughters Julia Munro, Paige Chavez, and Lauren Pierce-Whelden.

Don will be remembered for his happy spirit, easy-going nature, and deep love for his family and friends. His legacy of strength, faith, and kindness will live on in the hearts of those who knew him. Don loved God's promise of future life in paradise on this earth and now we look forward to welcoming him back during the promised resurrection of the dead.

No more will he remember the horrors of war, but he and all mankind will then enjoy peace on this planet like we've never known before, "a world ruled by justice and love." A memorial will be held for him on Saturday September 13, 2025 at 1:00 pm at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses 17474 SE Rose Street, Milwaukie, OR 97267.



## Events

**Don Melvin Whelden**

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### Memorial

 **Saturday**, September 13, 2025

 1:00 PM PT

 Kingdom Hall Of Jehovah'S Witnesses



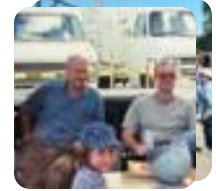
# Tribute Wall

**Don Melvin Whelden**

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**Kurt Hamberg** shared 2 photos to the **RBC Days** album.



August 26 at 11:00 AM



**Kurt Hamberg** August 26 at 11:11 AM

Our family has fond memories working with Don on many Kingdom Hall 'Quickbuild' projects. He was a hard worker and always had a very kind temperament. We look forward to seeing him back again in perfect health where we can again work together, sharing in beautifying the earth under righteous rule soon to come!



**C. Suzanne Whelden** posted:

I've never admired another human being more so than I have Dad. Since my early childhood I've known that I wanted to be like him. He loved his fellows, oftentimes initiating conversations with strangers he 'bumped' into on his walks or at the grocery store. Dad's PTSD from being a wounded POW during part of the Korean Conflict affected intrusive thoughts and images which were utterly devastating at times. I am so proud of Dad for his seeking professional help at the VA which consisted of a weekly POW group and a monthly one-on-one with a psychiatrist. Dad attended these appointments for decades, gaining tools for managing the sometimes overwhelming stress of post-trauma, and living life on life's terms. How courageous of him to allow healthy vulnerability to wash over him and through him. Dad's spiritual path helped him immensely, too. He was fully dedicated to maintaining his spiritual health in that sense as well, sharing it with others. Dad enjoyed his regular walks throughout Oregon City. I was fortunate enough to have accompanied him for some years. Dad also loved working on his farms, and he enjoyed caring for his cows. Ol' Freckles bore many a calf. Dad and I did the hay together for some years, taking turns loading and driving, then stacking the bales in the barn. Dad is missed by all of us. I'm grateful to have spent the last year with him virtually every day, and seeing him through to his final breath, by his side. He leaves a cavernous space in my heart, but more importantly, he suffers no more. C. Suzanne Whelden

August 26 at 7:26 AM



**Mark L Fischer** September 13 at 6:18 AM

Beautiful words, cousin!



## Tribute Wall

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**Robert Bigelow** posted:

I liked him from my first time meeting him in the late 80's. I worked several years with him at the Safeway Bread plant. He had a kind easy disposition. Easy and enjoyable to talk to. And enjoyable to work with.

August 26 at 4:36 AM



**Jennifer Sudar** shared a photo to the **Young Don** album.



August 26 at 4:11 AM



# Media

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August 26 at 11:00 AM



Kingdom Hall Build



Scaffolding Break



## Media

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August 26 at 4:11 AM





# Memories only last if you share them

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



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