



MH Raymond Armstrong

November 6, 1925 - April 29, 2014

Raymond passed away on Tuesday, April 29, 2014 , at Central Washington Hospital, Wenatchee, WA.

He was born on November 6, 1925, in Flagstaff, Arizona, to Whit Armstrong and Rossie Elizabeth (Clift) Armstrong. When Raymond was just 6 years old, his father died of pneumonia. For a time, his mother took Ray and his two brothers to stay with family in Arkansas. Then they moved to Prescott, Arizona, where Ray spent most of his youth.

When WWII broke out, Ray dropped out of his senior year to enlist in the Navy. He served on the USS HASKELL, a troop transport vessel, as a radio operator. He saw action throughout the Pacific and became a member of the ANCIENT ORDER OF THE DEEP. He earned three ribbons and three Bronze Stars.

After Ray returned home, he met Dorothy. He loved to tell the story about how they met. She was working in his brother's laundry shop. Everyone remembers him telling about her "pretty blue eyes." That first meeting, when he knew she was the pretty little girl for him, started a romance that would last for 66 years. Their wedding became part of Compton's Centennial Celebration. They were selected by the city to have their marriage witnessed by the entire town, complete with gifts from the merchants and a parade following. As part of the parade, Ray pulled his new bride through town in a little red wagon.

Ray and Dorothy first lived in Compton while Dorothy finished high school. A

year later, Ray was able to get a Cal-Vet loan, which they used to buy their first home where they raised their three children, Connie, Dan and Cliff, in Bellflower, CA. It was a little two bedroom one bath home that he eventually built into a rambling three bedroom home with two baths, a loooong hallway, a fabulous kitchen, huge family room and two fireplaces. He also moved the garage and added an office behind it. Ray was always looking for ways to improve. Building their dream home to completion took them up until they moved to Washington, more than 25 years.

The reason Ray was able to do so much building was because he became an electrician. He served his apprenticeship as an electrician with the Santa Fe Railroad. He created the first pocket-sized schematics for the refrigeration cars they worked on. Once he'd served his apprenticeship, he went to work for Cassidy Electric and worked for him until he started his own business, Armstrong Electric. Ray was a dawn-till-dark worker. He was always on the job, working, thinking, and planning. He received an honor from DISNEY for his innovative way of wiring for heating a large building in San Pedro. The award was presented in DISNEY'S PAGENT OF PROGRESS ATTRACTION with a dinner after at the prestigious CLUB 13. Because of his success as a contractor, he was able to take Dorothy on many worldwide tours, including Acapulco, England, Spain, the Caribbean and New England. Everything he did, he did for her and his family.

During the time Ray was getting his feet under himself as a husband and father, he met the LORD. He didn't miss an opportunity to attend church. He became a Sunday School bus driver, a participant in all church activities, a chaperone for the high school parties and just there when anything needed to be done. When the new sanctuary was built, Ray was part of the design team and the electrical contractor. He and Dorothy donated many hours in building that house of the LORD, Calvary Baptist Church in Bellflower, CA. After the church was built, he became the soundman. He loved his many friends at Calvary.

What would make Ray and Dorothy leave family and friends and make the

move to Washington? It was many summer vacations to visit Ray's favorite Uncle Herb and Aunt Dean in Wenatchee. That planted the seeds that eventually led them to move to their own "Armstrong Ranch." They planted a small cherry orchard and raised one or two beef a year for many years. Ray was proud of the HUGE cherries he always produced from his orchard. Leaving their family in California was hard on Ray and Dorothy. They made many trips back and forth. Eventually, Dan and Connie and her family moved to Washington, which made Ray happy. His family became even more important to him after he retired.

The move to Washington did not stop Ray's activity. He worked for Apple City Electric until he retired. He was an active member of several churches, but first and last, First Baptist Church in Wenatchee where he had many friends. Leaving their family in California was hard on Ray and Dorothy. They made many trips back and forth. Eventually, Dan moved up, married and had a son; Connie, her husband and three children moved closer and could visit often; and finally Cliff was able to move up to care for him and Dorothy when the time was right.

Ray was a proud man - proud of his Dorothy, his family and being able to live the AMERICAN DREAM. Everyone knows how proud Ray was of his family. He was not shy to sing Dossie's praises and he told his three children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren he was proud of them every time he was with them. They know everything he did was for them. What a legacy he leaves them!

After 65 years together this past year, Ray's Dorothy passed away. He was devastated. Every day he mourned her passing and looked forward to seeing her again. On April 29, just eight months after losing her, he was with his pretty little girl with the blue eyes once more.

Ray's legacy is a strong one. His love and generosity to family, church and friends; his work ethic; his love of fun and jokes; his faith in God and his love

for the US leave those left behind here inspired to live better and waiting to meet him on the other side.

Ray is preceded in death by his wife, parents and brothers and a baby sister. He is survived by his children-Connie (Ray) Shelters, Dan Armstrong, and Cliff Armstrong; 9 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren.

Tribute Wall

TA

“ To Connie, Dan and Cliff,

7/2/15

I know its been so many long years since we've had any contact but I want you to know how I came to write this.

Its with sadness but accompanied with good memories I'd like to say to you all I give my sympathy and condolences for your loss of you mom and dad.

It was on Tue of this week I heard of a news story that came out of Wenatchee, Wa which then prompted me to check on your dad on the computer. I remembered that my wife, Sally, had told me some months back that she had written to your mother approx a year ago or more but never heard back from her...never suspecting that she may have passed away...It was when I heard the city name of Wenatchee, that I Google your dad....then was with a shock the first item to come up was his obituary. Which in turn brought me to this site. Sally and I have moved up here to the Boise, ID area ('08) and have pretty much lost touch with a lot of family news. I would like to contact any of you to establish some lines of communication and/or contact information. I have some fond memories of your family and of your dad in my life as a youngster of fishing trips and working with my dad and my uncle Ray. Im not sure if you know or not, but Rick, my brother was killed in '05 and my mom, Millie passed in '10. Sherry and Sandy are both aging like us all but we're all busy with our respective families. Sally and I have seven children and all but one are here in ID now. Would love to have you email me as Im doing some genealogy on our family and would like to fill in some blanks on my and your dad's line and Grandma Lacewell's line. Also, I'd like to get any pictures such as those being shown on your dad's page here. It appears to be the only picture of the three boys along with Witt and Rossie I've ever seen. Thank you for putting this up online. Im so glad I followed up on the prompting to do a check on your dad. It brought back some really good thoughts and memories.

Please get back to me. Anxious to touch base. I do remember visiting with Cliff some years back. I believe it was with Rick that we

visited with him down in CA.

So, again, sorry for your loss and pray you are healing and reflecting on the good times and priceless memories of now both of your parents.

Respectfully, and with warmest regards,

*Terry/Sally Armstrong, son of Arlin and Millie Armstrong.
contact: email: slingblade51@gmail.com*

Terry Armstrong - July 02, 2015 at 10:22 PM

SJ

“ *Dear Family,*

I am so sorry to here about the passing of my Uncle Raymond, I loved him dearly, he was a great part of my youth and I have many fond memories of him. I was the flower girl at their wedding. My love and prayers are for you, his family, at his passing. I am sorry, if I had heard, I would have made a trip to the funeral.

My love,

Sherry Jones

Sherry (Armstrong) Jones - June 23, 2014 at 10:15 AM



“ I have wonderful memories of both Uncle Raymond and Aunt Dorothy. We had many wonderful memories from their house in Bellflower. Do you remember when all of us were there getting our outfits ready for Aunt Nancy's wedding? There isn't room here to relate the whole story, but if you were there you will remember: "Shut your eyes Bruce! Shut your eyes!" I love the job that you did on this website. I only expected to see pictures of your mom and dad, and then there was a picture of my dad and Uncle Raymond in dad's "office" on the ranch! A few photos later, there are all of the second cousins lined up on the fire place! Makes me think, that we have been apart way too long. I know that everyone has their own busy lives, but we should try to get together soon. Love to you all, may you be blessed by God's peace and the joy of knowing that your parents are reunited.

May 10, 2014 at 10:33 AM



“ I will always remember Rob & my first Mother's Day in Washington state - we went to church with Danny & his son and Uncle Raymond got me a corsage. Aunt Dorothy was the best cook and always made us feel at home.

The last time I saw their shining faces was at the Seattle airport. We all stayed at Connie's in the forest by a lake and I played my piano I gave to Connie for her kids because I couldn't move it from a wet climate to such a dry one in Tucson. Connie and I slept in and those early to rise folks Ray, Aunt Dorothy, and Uncle Raymond brought us a doggy bag.....ha ha They sent me home with walnuts & cherries to Oklahoma City. I made chocolate chip walnut cookies and took them to work and gave some of the cherries to my friend and his wife - he was a true Christian and came up to me when I was brand new in town, welcomed me and coordinated the move into my new home. He came over to help me assemble my bed so I'd have a place to sleep. I took them to dinner where we all held hands and prayed.

Oh, and I still have the VHS tape Aunt Dorothy gave me of all us cousins on the swings in their back yard in our Easter finest. One last thing - the player piano - How ya gonna keep em down on the farm, after they've seen Pareeee

Love you all so much,

Cath

PS I will be making Memory Boxes for everyone that wants one - just send me some old black & white photos to 127 Felix St., Apt. #1 Santa Cruz, CA 95060 and I will ship them to you. I am a featured artist at Made In Santa Cruz and have coordinated a Mother's Day Event on the wharf. I have coordinated media coverage of the Mother's Day traditions from our global travelers. I'm also promoting a bring-a-snack campaign to support our homeless Musicians that serenade us on Mother's Day - can't wait, should be

a rewarding day.

Cathy Barner Carter - May 10, 2014 at 02:40 AM

CC

“ *Love you so much Uncle Raymond - you were strong and loving.....you always had a big grin and a warm hug waiting. So grateful for you in my life...*



Cathy Barner Carter, Niece (local artist in Santa Cruz, CA) - May 10, 2014 at 01:09 AM

PH

“ *Ray Armstrong was one of the finest men I have ever known. This world seems a much lonelier place without him in it. I will always cherish my memories of all the good time we shared with both he and our beloved Dorothy...*

Peggy House - May 09, 2014 at 02:23 PM