



William S. "Bill" Parrish

June 26, 1929 - September 18, 2014

William Parrish of Toppenish passed away Thursday, September 18th, 2014. William, "Bill" was born June 26, 1929 to Elsie and Stan Parrish in Vernon, British Columbia. After moving to the United States, Bill spent his primary years in Byron and Yakima then moved to Toppenish. Throughout the summers during his high school years, Bill worked in the wheat fields in the Prescott area. In 1947 he graduated from Toppenish High School.

After high school he met Shirley Rathbun of Toppenish and married soon after. They moved to the Satus area and began farming. Bill and Shirley then moved out west to McKinley and eventually near the U & I Sugar Beet factory where they resided the rest of their lives. It was here where Bill and Shirley raised their two sons, Steve and Curtis and grew their family farm.

Bill always enjoyed traveling and seeing new places. He traveled a fair amount in his younger years to different parts of the world including South America and the South Pacific. After he semi-retired he traveled with Shirley extensively across the United States visiting all of the lower 48 states, Alaska, and Canada in his motor home.

Bill also was an aviator, studying aeronautical engineering and even building his own helicopter: which he later piloted and crashed. He enjoyed flying with friends and family in his Cessna and surveying the countryside from above. Antique farm equipment was also a hobby of his in which he collected and restored to original appearance and operation.

Bill was recognized for his lifetime achievement to the Toppenish Mural

Society for his part in helping erect and maintain the historical murals of Toppenish. He commissioned both of the steel painted murals off Highway 97 in Toppenish and was the man to “get the job done”.

Recently, Bill was recognized for his 60th year of membership to the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Toppenish.

If you had a mechanical engineering conundrum or simply were seeking sound advice on a project, Bill was always willing to help. Many a friend would visit Bill seeking insight and guidance on how to make this or that work differently or more efficiently. From designing a mint distillery to customizing an electric scooter, there was no project too big or small that Bill would shy away from. His ingenuity was endless and valued by many.

Bill is survived by his two sons Steven (Erla) Parrish and Curtis (Kathy) Parrish both of Toppenish, six grandchildren Stephanie, Sally, Sara, Stuart, Curt Thomas, and Kenny; Five great grandchildren Sandra, Bridger, Tristan, Jack, and Samuel.

Bill is preceded in death by his loving wife Shirley and his two daughters Patty and Ann.

Graveside services will be held Friday at 11AM at Elmwood Cemetery in Toppenish. Friends can send condolences at www.toppenishfunerals.com. Colonial Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

City of Toppenish

(509) 865-2080

Tribute Wall



“ *William S. "Bill" Parrish*

October 05, 2023 at 11:22 AM

SB

“ Steve and Curtis,



This is the letter I handed to both of you after your mother's passing.

I feel it is as appropriate today in respect to your father. I have substituted your father's name where your mother's had appeared.

I am honored I was able to attend your father's service.

I want you to realize how much respect and honor I believe you have presented to your father.

Children's actions are unspoken messages, to those observing, of the level of personal connection those children have with their parents.

Both of you are identified with some similarities: Respectfulness, determined work ethic, fairness, courage to be entrepreneurial, sensitive to the less fortunate, and life long learners.

Each of you has your particular area of expertise recognized by those unique business and friendship circles you occupy.

Yet the greatest value you have given to your father is your character.

It is the only thing we take with us on our final day.

Your father's character is represented in you and your children and generations to come.

He has been a most positive influence, and a father honored by who and what you are.

You have given him the ultimate gift of respect, and he was able to

enjoy it for as old as you are.

My family sends our supportive thoughts.

Safety to your families,

Stephen T. Busby

Stephen T. Busby - October 08, 2014 at 11:42 PM

MA

“ *The Parrish family,
We at I.P. Callison would like to extend our sympathies to your family for your loss.
Bill was a good man who always let you know where he stood. Our dealings were fair and honest.
We at Callisons thank the farm both past and present for the many years of business we have shared and our thoughts are with you.
Max and Rod, on behalf of I.P. Callison and Sons.*

Max Amundson - September 26, 2014 at 12:58 PM

LE

“ *Lynn and Katie E. purchased a sympathy card for the family of William S. "Bill" Parrish.*



Lynn and Katie E. - September 25, 2014 at 08:03 PM

BM

“ I saw Bill about a year ago out by the old Parrish home across from U and I ,I was quail hunting and he and a friend were out for a Sunday drive .Growing up in Toppenish,I allways new who Bill Parrish was.His son Steve has been a valuable friend to my Family.I'm very sorry for your loss.
Barry Murphy

Barry Murphy - September 23, 2014 at 06:21 PM

AM

“ It has been 40+ years since I last saw Bill and Shirley, They both treated me like a son.

My condolences to Curtis and Steve.

Andrew Meiser

Andrew Meiser - September 23, 2014 at 03:56 PM

MG

“ My deepest condolences goes out to the entire Parrish family. I was in shock when I heard the sad news. My father has worked for the Parrish's for 40+ years and they have all been so good to my father, Rafael Garcia, Sr. My dad was so bummed out in hearing the sad news of the passing of Bill. I know my dad has many fond memories of Bill and I know dad will miss him. Steve and Curtis....I am so sorry for your loss. ~Myrna Garcia-Ham

Myrna Garcia-Ham - September 22, 2014 at 09:08 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Heggie's Colonial Funeral Home - September 22, 2014 at 04:01 PM

MM

Mr. Parrish I found out had a serious sense of humor....he kept a straight face when he pulled into my mini schnauzer little business....he looked at all of the pups and insisted I sell my very own mini schnauzer to him...offering big money...I just could not sell my dog...and finally I saw a glint of teasing in his eyes...RIP Bill Parrish...look up my dog her name was Sarah...she will pal around with you UNTIL I get there hahaha.

Martha Mengarelli

Martha M. - September 26, 2014 at 04:07 PM

LE

“ *Bill was a remarkable man. His larger than life personality and generosity are fondly remembered. He will be missed. Our deepest sympathy. Lanee, Rane, Doug and families.*

Lanee Edwards - September 19, 2014 at 09:58 AM



“ *Cheeseboard Complete was purchased for the family of William S. "Bill" Parrish.*



September 19, 2014 at 09:48 AM