



Russell Bryant Sandlin

May 1, 1934 - July 30, 2013

Russell Bryant Sandlin entered this life on the family farm on May 1, 1934 in LeFlore, OK. Spending his early years in the Walters, Oklahoma area. He entered eternity on July 30, 2013 in Prescott Valley, AZ.

The family was lured west to the California Bay area selling the family farm in 1942. He attended Pacific Heights School in San Francisco and enjoyed many adventures as a young boy riding street cars and watching the huge ships entering the harbor. He worked in a deli and sold newspapers in San Francisco.

Jobs in the California oil fields prompted a family move to Taft, CA where he attended Lincoln Jr. High and graduated from Taft High in 1953, lettering in both baseball and basketball. He also lettered in basketball at Taft College, graduating in 1955. After graduation, he went right to work for Chevron (then Standard Oil Company).

In his 35 year career with Standard (Chevron) Oil he worked in various positions with his many years as a Manager, being among the most enjoyable, earning the respect of his colleagues and superiors. He retired in July, 1991. During his career he attended classes at the Universities of Oklahoma, Texas and Nevada at Reno.

On June 18, 1956 he married his wife of 57 years, Joanne, in Santa Barbara, California.

He served his country in the U.S. Army from 1956-1958 in Frankfurt, Germany as an Army First Cook and also in an Officer's Mess. While stationed in Germany, Joanne joined him and they enjoyed exploring various European countries. This training and enjoyment of cooking lasted throughout his adult life, cooking for various church and community groups. He also served in various church positions as Deacon, Junior High Boys Sunday School teacher, Camp counselor, Christian Education Chairman and church cook. He especially enjoyed preparing Men's Breakfast groups, "feeding the guys."

His hobbies were landscaping, fishing, building and home improvement projects. Joanne would show him a picture and ask "can you build this?" and in no time it was in the house. He was also a "car guy". Particular might be the story of his car care.

His kids knew him as the "my Dad can fix anything" guy. He spent many enjoyable hours fishing with his son on various lakes with the pictures to prove not many got away! Susan and Russ had many stimulating conversations on economics, business and cooking techniques through the years.

In 1991 he and Joanne moved to Tehachapi, CA where he was known as the neighborhood "go to guy" for advice on home, tool or yard questions. His fifty plus display of handmade birdhouses were a community conversation topic and backyard tour destination. He also sold custom designer birdhouses in the Apple Shed Restaurant Gift Shop.

During his Tehachapi years, Russ and Joanne traveled extensively to many foreign countries as well as many driving trips in the U.S. and Canada, especially enjoying National Parks. They also enjoyed many years vacationing

in Durango, CO. Owning a second home there and making many friends. They celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary with a tour of Eastern Canadian cities, a highlight of their travels.

Prescott, AZ became home in 2003 where Russ was active in the First Baptist Church with cooking and greeter's ministry and helping others in the neighborhood as the "handy neighborhood tool man". In later years he was active in First Southern Baptist Church, Prescott Valley with a friendly welcome as a greeter.

He is survived by his loving family which meant the world to him. His wife, Joanne; son, Steve (Cindy) of Chino Valley, AZ; daughter, Susan of Richmond, VA; brother, Toney (Linda) of Columbia, MO and their children, plus many friends in California, Arizona, and Colorado. Also, a special cousin, Don (Wanda) Russell of Hartshorne, OK. A pastor to the Choctaw Indians was very special to him and he enjoyed his many long talks by phone of boyhood days in Oklahoma with Don.

He will be missed for his quick wit, teasing and ready smile and willingness to always jump in and lend a helping hand to someone in need. He lived by the verse "A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones." Proverbs 17:22

A favorite Bible verse was "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever." Isaiah 40:8

He will be missed daily, but never forgotten.

The service for Russ will be at 1:30pm on Saturday, August 3, 2013 at the First Southern Baptist Church, 2820 N. Pleasant View Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ.

Hampton Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements. Please visit www.hamptonfuneralhome.com to sign Russ' guest book.

Tribute Wall



“ *Russ, Your smiling face and funny jokes were always welcome when you walked by our house when we lived in Victorian Estates..The last time we saw you at Sams club a few days ago was another funny joke; We will miss you!! Joann and family, we share your grief!*
Ray and Gidget

Gidget Marieta - August 10, 2013 at 11:35 AM

NP

“ *Dear Joanne and family,
Your special "Russell" will be missed by all of us that know him as friend and tease! He always had a grin and an in-your-face remark, that put a grin on our faces, too. May God be with you and lift you in His loving arms as you go through this difficult time of adjusting to a different life. Heaven is rejoicing though as Russ stands before his Savior and, is probably planning the feast he will cook for the next celebration!*
With love and sincere sympathy,
Neil & Cheryl Prill

Neil & Cheryl Prill - August 03, 2013 at 01:05 PM

WP

“ A new resident into this community is always welcome, but Russ was a special addition. He immediately entered into the existing programs and started new ones. He was on hand to help newcomers move in and as a knowledgeable engineer, provided the frame work for improvements. He was "ONE MAN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE ".

He gave generously of his time, produce, and ideas to me and my family and leaves me with fond memories of discussions on a wide range of subjects. I am sorry that my physical condition won' t permit my attendance for his last rites.

Bill Pfander

W. H. Pfande - August 03, 2013 at 11:34 AM

AB

“ Russ,
We are going to miss those afternoon visits on your front patio. You always had a good story to tell although we did not always believe them. Us "old guys" will always treasure the memories.....Tony.

Anthony Beere - August 03, 2013 at 10:42 AM

SS

“ Bryant ,
You were a "fun", cousin. You loved baseball when we were young. I enjoyed every game I attended. Since I lived in Texas, their weren't enough. My trips to California were few and far between. You worked for some company that sold "tootsie pops", mom and I still remember that when we share one together.
I was wondering if last night you would have been watching The Diamond Backs take on the Texas Rangers?
Ella Mae Russell, Daniel E. Russell, Jr. and Sue Russell
Scarborough extend to your entire family our love and sincere sympathy.

Sue Russell Scarborough - August 02, 2013 at 11:35 AM

PF

“ Joanne and Family, Words are never adequate it seems at this very difficult time. We are so sorry. Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family. Jack and Pat

Pat & Jack Fay - August 02, 2013 at 10:03 AM

AM

“ I am so sorry to hear this but know he is blessed and with God. My blessings to u Joanne. I just saw u at Trader Joe's last week and he threw a napkin at me to get my attention. He was very special. With our love and best Ann(AC) and Charlie Musarra

Ann Musarra - August 02, 2013 at 09:40 AM