

## Wally Presmyk

December 26, 1920 - December 7, 2013

Our father, Wally Presmyk, has gone to be with our mother, Gerrie, who preceded him in death over 32 years ago. Even though they were separated for so long, his love for her never diminished. We know she watched over him for those 32 years, and now they will be together forever.

Walter Joseph Presmyk was born in Chicago, Illinois on December 26, 1920 to Charles and Nellie Przesmycki, and died in Prescott on December 7, 2013. He was also preceded in death by his grandson, Sgt. Kenny Schall, his life-long friends, Nathan and Polly Painter, and his older brother and two older sisters. The legacy he left on this earth includes his ten children and their loving spouses, Les and Paula Presmyk, Debbie and Bob Jones, Shelly and Kent Bungler, Kevin and Dottie Presmyk, Chris and Vikki Presmyk, Terri and John Schall, Alison Quinn, Lisa and Henry Frias, Lori and David Towles, and Brian and Marsha Presmyk; his 27 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren, along with his ex-wife and friend Betty Theisen.

He was a proud WWII veteran, serving his country in the U.S. Army from 1939 through 1945 in Panama, the Philippines and Okinawa. Like a lot of servicemen, he made Phoenix his home after returning from war. This was where he met Gerrie and bought three acres to start his general contracting business and raise their family. He built custom homes and small office buildings throughout the valley, but his real forte was remodeling. He imbued

his sons with a love for construction and working with their hand and his daughters with an appreciation for how long it took to move a pile of bricks or a bundle of lumber.

He was a mentor, a teacher, an inventor, the guy in charge, a midwife for the home births of his seven youngest children, and JaJa to his grandchildren. Although he was small in stature, he would fill a room with his presence. He served as president of the Lion's Club, and in the 1950s when the governor wanted to commemorate fatal crash sites along our highways, he built 1000 crosses. He helped spearhead the law establishing 15mph school crossing zones. He learned to be a magician so he could entertain children at Gomper's Rehabilitation Center. His final achievements included having his family do all of the site work at Wesley Bolin Plaza for the Enduring Freedom Memorial and building the Triumph of Courage memorial to Arizona's war dead from Afghanistan and Iraq at the VA Medical Center in Prescott.

Let us tell you something, Dad...we love you and we will miss you, but we know your are with our mother, and that makes us all very happy for you both. Someday we will be together again and you can regale us with your stories of how you got St. Peter's construction crew all straightened out.

A Celebration of his life will take place at 9:30am on December 20, 2013 at the Northern Arizona VA Medical Center Chapel (Building 152). A reception will follow in the Theatre, Building 15. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Honor Flight Arizona (sending Arizona's WWII vets to their WWII Memorial in Washington, DC) at P.O. Box 12258, Prescott, AZ 86304, or [honorflightaz.org/donation-form/](http://honorflightaz.org/donation-form/). Flowers and final arrangements were entrusted to Hampton Funeral Home., 240 S. Cortez St., Prescott, AZ 86303.

# Tribute Wall

CB

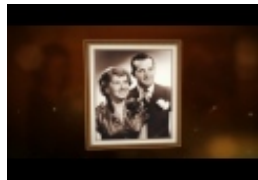
“ *Chris and Family,  
So sorry to learn of your father's passing. I read about it in our local newspaper. I know that he was a good man to have grown such a great family with big hearts and awesome ambitions. It is always hard to lose a parent. May God's comfort and peace be with you and your entire family, always.  
With our sympathy,  
Ed and Christine Colman Bridwell*

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**Christine Colman Bridwell** - January 24, 2014 at 12:47 PM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



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**Bill Springer** - December 22, 2013 at 01:05 AM



*-I hope you enjoy this video slide show set to upbeat romantic music...  
Bill Springer~*

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**Bill Springer** - December 23, 2013 at 03:42 PM



*NOTE: \_\_The photos in the video really come alive if 1st you select  
"FULL SCREEN" (Hide the cursor) and KICK THE VOLUME A BIT....  
W. Bill Springer~*

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**Bill Springer** - December 26, 2013 at 03:38 AM



“ 4 files added to the album Celebration of life Service



Bill Springer - December 22, 2013 at 12:43 AM



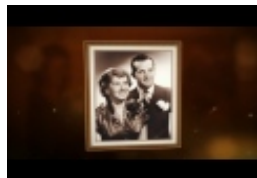
“ -Just returning home from a wonderful celebration of life  
...gathering of family, friends and all who loved Wally~  
-As my mentor and friend, he touched my life so deeply  
that I'm a better man because of it. -We'll all be along soon  
my friend, keep and eye-out for me especially as I'll want  
you to show me around. w/love, \_\_Bill Springer-



Bill Springer - December 20, 2013 at 11:10 PM

BS

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Bill Springer - December 20, 2013 at 09:55 PM

BS

“ 1 file added to the album Wally and Kyle "Button shining tradition"



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**Bill Springer** - December 19, 2013 at 04:16 PM

BS

“ ...*"Let me tell you somethin Bill."* \_\_\_-*Wally, my mentor and friend would encourage me to continue in my service to veterans, and strongly urged that I keep my eye on benevolence in doing so. "That, he said, will keep you grounded Bill and will make it all worth the giving."* -*Having lunch & going over plans for posters and photographs were our special time to be together. \_\_\_-I was priveleged to many "Let me tell you somethin's..."*  
-*Soar HIGH dearest Wally past birthdays and across forever and when we meet AGAIN it will be in the ONE celebration that can never end...*  
~*Everlasting Life*~ \_\_\_-*Until we meet again, my friend \_\_\_-Bill Springer*



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**Bill Springer** - December 18, 2013 at 07:33 PM



*"In your service to veterans Bill, let me tell you something, do so with benevolence. It will make all the difference." \_\_-( My favorite "Wallyism" )*

**Bill Springer** - December 20, 2013 at 10:04 PM



*Bill--*

*Thank you for the friendship you had with Dad. Also for the wonderful photo collages you have made. Our memories of Dad will be with us everyday and his impact on everyone he knew is quite a legacy, don't you think?*

*Debbie Jones*

**Debbie Jones** - December 23, 2013 at 10:27 PM



*-So kind of you to say... Debbie Jones~ Yes Wally's impact on me is one of my more positive attributes in being benevolent in my service to veterans and others... -Courtesy of my mentor named Mr. Presmyk (Wally) -once you "were-IN" \_\_-LOL\**

**Bill Springer** - December 26, 2013 at 03:28 AM



*“ 7 files added to the album New Album Name*



**Bill Springer** - December 18, 2013 at 07:21 PM

EE

“ I met Wally when I worked for Betty Theisen as a caregiver. I really enjoyed being around him, he had such a great sense of humor, we laughed a lot. He used to look in the obituaries everyday and say "well I'm still here". Rest in peace Wally, see you on the other side. - Ethel Ely

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**ethel ely** - December 17, 2013 at 09:20 PM

AL

“ I will miss your sense of humor dad. You wisdom you have shared with all of us over the years and your love of life. My kids always enjoyed bantering back and forth with you. They loved the challenge. You are already missed greatly by all of us. You have left such a legacy in your ten kids and grandkids and great grandkids. You will live on forever through all of us. Dance a polka with mom and hug Nate, Polly and Kenny. Heres a toast to you(yes I will drink real champagne). I love you pops. Alison

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**Alison** - December 17, 2013 at 09:09 AM

ML

“ Dear Terri, Les, Debbie, Shelly, Kevin, Chris, Allison, Lisa, Lori and Brian (and all of your families),

*I was so sorry to hear of your dad's passing when my mom told me that she had read about it in yesterday's newspaper. Just the mention of his name brought back a flood of memories of the man who could bring such laughter---and tears (from all of the laughter), to everyone he came in contact with. It seems as if it were only yesterday that he was coming to visit dad to chat about some construction project, or to ask dad to help him with the painting on a recent construction project and they would stand out in our back yard at Wally's truck for what seemed like hours exchanging funny stories and laughter. I always wanted to be a part of their conversations just so I could listen to the funny stories your dad would share with my dad.*

*Another fond memory is the home-made sausage your dad shared with our family on numerous occasions. And to this day I have never been able to find sausage that could even compare to the wonderful taste and texture of those your family hand made in that 50 gallon drum (it was a 50 gallon drum, right?). Anyway, they were the best sausages I've ever had! (In fact, I recently shared my memories of the Presmyk home-made sausages with one of my co-workers the other day who had just returned from a shopping trip to the polish market near our office).*

*I know that our families have not stayed in "close" contact over the years, because we all eventually moved away and were no longer neighbors, but your dad and your family's lives are still a big part of my childhood memories, and will always hold a special place in my heart; from Les's huge rock collection to the various nicknames most of you were either given or I recall hearing, to the swimming pool escapades in your dad's indoor pool (what a blast!). Especially considering the fact that our families would not have gotten to know each other had it not been for your dad informing my dad of the neighboring property that was for sale, which my dad bought, and then became my childhood home and still is home to my parents, as well as my home away from home, even though I only live across town - I still call it "home". So, I guess I owe a great deal of gratitude*

*to your dad for sharing something with my dad that literally made a huge impact on where my childhood memories took place and gave me the opportunity to grow up on 2.25 acres of land, adjacent to your family's property, where I learned how to care for chickens, sheep, baby lambs, a couple of horses, a dog, and a myriad of stray cats over the years. I can only imagine how many other people's lives your dad has had an impact on throughout his lifetime. May God be with you and your families at this most difficult time.*  
*Mishelle (Shelly Avans) Lowrey*

*Additionally, I regret that I will not be able to attend the memorial service on Friday and pay my respects to you, your families and your dearly departed father.*

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**Mishelle Lowrey** - December 16, 2013 at 06:10 PM



*Mishelle, Thank you for sharing your stories...We certainly had alot of fun growing up together and memories that will last a lifetime. Dad will be sorely missed by so many. And the sausage making still continues to this day (at least once a year) that is probably the best memory and greatest thing that Dad gave us and we can pass on to our kids. God Bless you*

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**Terri Presmyk Schall** - December 22, 2013 at 05:17 PM

DJ

*Mishelle--*

*We have fond memories of your family as well. It was a great neighborhood where we grew up. Being in a semi "rural" area in the middle of urbanism gave us so many different experiences. Dad will be missed but never forgotten. After all, there are 10 kids and a plethora of grands and great-grands to carry on.*

*Thank you for the memories.*

*Debbie Presmyk Bobo-Jones*

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**Debbie Jones** - December 23, 2013 at 10:15 PM

ML

*Terri and Debbie (and families) - My parents, Steve and LaDene Avans also wanted me to share with you their deepest sympathies and condolences, as they do not have a computer and were unable to make it to Prescott for the services as well. God be with you all!*

**Mishelle Lowrey** - December 24, 2013 at 03:06 PM

BF

“ Dear Family,

*I had mixed emotions when I read about your dad's passing this morning; hard for you to lose him but what a love story your parents 'wrote' and to know your dad is now with your mom.....*



*What great students you were at Palo Verde. I remember the gifts of homemade sausage you children would bring to school - an annual event for your family as I recall. And what hard workers those of you were who worked at Landis Aerial Surveys - a tribute to your parents and the way they raised you.*

*My thoughts and love are with you.  
Barbara (Landis) Folb*

**Barbara Folb** - December 15, 2013 at 11:10 AM

SB

*Dear Barbara,*

*Thank ou so much for your sweet thoughts about our dad, our parents, and our family. We go way back, don't we? You and I could really claim a lot of fame for starting all the history our families have shared. After all, you were MY second grade teacher!*

*So wonderful to hear from you!*

*Fondly,*

*Shelley (Presmyk) Bunger*

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**Shelley Bunger** - December 16, 2013 at 09:51 PM

DJ

*Barbara--*

*Mom and Dad are dancing, laughing and sharing stories. There is a certain peace and joy in our hearts knowing that.*

*He left a large footprint in the lives of so many from young to old. And his blue eyes will live on for many generations to come!*

*Thank you for remembering him and our family with your loving words.*

*Debbie Bobo-Jones*

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**Debbie Jones** - December 23, 2013 at 10:02 PM