



Benjamin Harry Boxum

April 22, 1922 - March 3, 2014

Resident of Lynden

Benjamin Harry Boxum, age 91, went to be with Jesus on Monday, March 3, 2014. He had been living at the Christian Health Care Center since May, 2013.

Ben was born at home in Jewell County, Kansas, on April 22, 1922, to Harry and Bertha Boxum. He was married to Elizabeth (Betty), who preceded him in death five short months ago, on September 27, 2013. Just prior to Betty's passing, they had celebrated 70 years of marriage on September 8.

Ben had a passion for education. His first teaching job was in a one-room country schoolhouse in Kansas. His young teaching career was interrupted by World War II. After serving in the Army Air Corps, he returned to Kansas, teaching in elementary schools while pursuing his bachelor's and master's degrees in state colleges.

Ben felt called to Christian education. Encouraged by his pastor at Dispatch CRC, he applied and was accepted at Sumas Christian School as teacher/principal. This opportunity, as well as having two brothers (Albert, Ed and their families) in Washington state, drew him to take his young family to the Pacific Northwest. After three years in Sumas, he relocated to Lynden

Christian School, where he taught, coached and later served as superintendent.

Even following his retirement in 1987, Ben continued to serve as a Christian educator. He served as an interim principal at Orange City Christian, and later at Sioux Center Christian schools in Iowa.

At family gatherings Ben and his brothers, Albert and Ed, would keep everyone entertained with their Kansas stories. Laughter was a given. The stories he told gave all who listened a window into the heart and soul of who he was.

Ben was a teacher, author and orator. He was a man of prayer and deep humility, spending much time in the Word. He was blessed with the gift of contentment, and a love for simple things: Homemade ice cream, nature, Shagren's draft horses across from 8807 Benson Rd., books, poetry, gardening, Betty's pies, Andy Griffith. Ben adored his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He loved people, and he and Betty often had after-church coffee guests. His capacity to joyfully embrace life was matched with a tenderness when sadness came to the lives of others.

We thank God for the gift of Dad's presence in our lives. Ben is survived by his four children and their spouses: Vivian (Marlo) Covey, Steve (Carolyn) Boxum, Von (Greg) Geleynse, and David (Peggy) Boxum. Ben also had 12 grandchildren: Mike (Jackie), Mark (Emily), Matthew (Charissa), Tim (Tracy), and Jon (Kelsey) Covey; Tara (Nathen) Storness-Bliss, Joel (Michelle) Boxum, and Ian Boxum; Jesse and Dana Geleynse; and Autumn and Anna Boxum; as well as 13 great grandchildren: Brady, Rachel and Addison Covey; Kendra, Carson and Kali Covey; Quin, Charles and Marlowe Covey; Kaitlyn and Carter Covey; Hattie and Benson Covey; and Serenity Storness-Bliss as well as many beloved nieces and nephews.

Visitation hours will be held at Moles Funeral Home, 1907 Front Street, Lynden, Friday, March 7, from 6-8:00 p.m.

A memorial service is scheduled at Bethel CRC, 1105 Liberty St., Lynden, for Saturday, March 8, at 2:30 p.m.

The family thanks the Christian Health Care Center for their compassionate care and devotion to Dad. We also would like to thank the Bethel CRC family who have loved, supported and ministered to Dad in so many ways.

Farewell Tribute Information

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Donations Information

Memorials are suggested to Lynden Christian Schools, 417 Lyncs Dr., Lynden, WA, 98264 or Christian Health Care Center, 855 Aaron Dr., Lynden, WA, 98264.

Tribute Wall

HH

“ Dear Ben Boxum Family, I enjoyed working with Ben for many years. He was Superintendent at Lynden Christian and I was Superintendent at Lynden Public Schools. I was fortunate to have Ben as a mentor. He not only shared educational ideas and philosophies, He and I shared how God was precious to our lives. Having a personal relationship with God is most important to Ben and I. Ben was a man of integrity, honesty and was a Godly man. His Christian faith was exhibited daily. I miss the many good times we had together traveling to educational meetings. Lois and I extend our sympathy to each member of the family.

Howard and Lois Heppner - March 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ I had heard of the name, Ben Boxum long before I ever met him. Everything I ever heard about him was positive. I heard he was a man of God, humble, and a man with great integrity. I was fortunate enough to meet him in person in the later part of his life. I came to know that what I had heard about him was indeed true and that he was an honorable man. I got to spend some time with him in his later years and got to hear his one line zinger sense of humor that he was so famous for. I also met his wife Betty and had some of her pie and the infamous home made ice cream that I had heard so much about. It was very good!. I met all his children and am not surprised by the beautiful memories they shared about their experiences with him today. I am blessed enough to be married to one of his brothers, Ed's daughters, Debbie. Unfortunately, I never met Ed either, as he was not here when Debbie and I were married. I am truly blessed by God for the time I have spent with Debbie and all the Boxum's and will miss both Ben and Betty Boxum. I am very happy that they are together again!

Dan & Debbie Shuler

Dan Shuler - March 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ To all of Bens family, My memory of Mr. Boxum when I was in high school, was that he was such a ‘gentle giant’. Always, so kind. And hearing him say, “And a word to the wise is sufficient”, still rings in my ears when I think of him doing announcements over the intercom!! Love to your whole family. Kathy

Kathy (Scholten) Poortinga - March 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Dear Viv and entire family of Ben Buxum, We are praying for you as you grieve and celebrate the life of your loved one. Ben was a special saint of God and model for all of us. Our love to you! Marion and Jan Van Soelen

Marion and Jan Van Soelen - March 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ We thank God for the Christian influences of all three of the Boxum brothers in our lives. To have benefited from all the talents in our church and school of these three men was truly God’s gift to us as a family. Mick and Lena Marie Vander Griend

Mick and Lena Marie Vander Griend - March 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM