



John Frank Vardanega

February 4, 1926 - January 4, 2019

John Frank Vardanega passed away on January 4, 2019 in Warren, Oregon just one month, to the day, shy of his 93rd birthday. John was born in Warren on February 4, 1926 to Giuseppe (Joe) and Teresa (Bowers) Vardanega, he was the fourth of five children, raised on the family dairy farm.

John graduated from Scappoose High School in 1944, and immediately reported to Fort Lewis for two years of service in the Army. Prior to his enlistment, he had driven bus for the Scappoose School District, and it was on this job where he met his future wife, Gene Schuring. His plan was simple; he just ensured that one day she was his last stop so he could ask her out.

From 1944 to 1946 he served in the Army during WWII as a Sergeant in the 1641st Engineering Utility Detail. He worked as a clerk typist until there was need for heavy equipment operators. The army decided his experience driving farm equipment qualified. He was reassigned overseas to aid in the post war cleanup effort, becoming an expert heavy equipment operator. He served there in England, France, Belgium and Germany. Upon his return home, he rekindled his romance with Gene and they married on May 24, 1947.

John worked first on the Parker Ranch in Scappoose. Through his connection with Charles Parker, he moved into working for the Parker-Schram Construction Company, which owned and operated Scappoose Sand and Gravel. He later joined Rogers Construction Company, and was involved with highway and road construction, including such projects as Highway 26 over Mount Hood, but mainly with the ongoing construction of I-80N, now known as Interstate 84 from Portland to Mountain Home, Idaho. John enjoyed this work tremendously, but ultimately returned to take a position with Scappoose Sand & Gravel to be closer to home and family. He rose to the rank of Superintendent before his retirement at age 55.

He and his wife, Gene, had always had a farm of some type. After his retirement, he

began hay farming as a full time job, and remained engaged in this business through most of the rest of his life. It was through this business that he became well known throughout Columbia County.

In addition to farming, John was active in the community as a member of the Columbia County Farm Bureau, the Columbia County Comprehensive Planning and Advisory Committee (CPAC) and the Columbia SWCD (Soil and Water Conservation District).

John was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Gene (Schuring) Vardanega, his parents, Joe and Teresa Vardanega; his brothers, Roy and Frank; his sisters, Clara (Downing) and Joy (Johnson).

John is survived by his children, Barbara (Jay Thomas) Vardanega of Portland, John (Joan Fishback) Vardanega of Warren, Lorelie (Raj Paonaskar) Vardanega of Portland and Josie (Fred) Gilmore of Herndon, Virginia; his grandchildren, Jacob and Jenny Vardanega, Jordan Gilmore, Josha and Asa Paonaskar; and his companion since his wife's death in 2010, Selma Pickle.

Funeral services will be held at Columbia Funeral Home in St. Helens, OR on January 16, 2019 at 1pm. Per John's wishes, a short viewing will be held directly after the service, followed by interment at Bethany Cemetery in Warren with military honors.

Events

JAN **Funeral Service** 01:00PM

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Columbia Funeral Home

681 Columbia Blvd., St. Helens, OR, US, 97051

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Columbia Funeral Home - February 26 at 11:46 AM



“ I will always remember John and my grandpa Peterson, two old farmers. Two men that were hard workers, out in the fields for hours. Our family met John and his family when we bought the house on slaves.

Julie christiansen - February 21 at 05:53 AM



“ Met John and Gene about 28 years ago after moving into the neighborhood. They were both an absolute pleasure to visit with and a wealth of information about the area. Driving to or from home and seeing John on his tractor working a hay field clear up to 90 years old was something to admire about a man who never sat back and let life go by the wayside. He was a real inspiration and will sorely be missed.

Ken Taylor

Ken Taylor - January 23 at 06:50 PM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of John Frank Vardanega.



January 15 at 05:59 PM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Yellow and White was purchased for the family of John Frank Vardanega.



January 14 at 07:26 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you. I really enjoyed looking through the pictures.....

Cathy Armstrong - January 11 at 07:17 PM



“ 98 files added to the album LifeTributes



Columbia Funeral Home - January 11 at 03:44 PM



“ A wonderful man that could build almost anything. Always enjoyed talking to him and learning from him over the years. He is one of those people that will never be forgotten

Maerk Larson - January 08 at 04:22 PM



“ Mr V, was a wonderful friendly man..he could outwork 3 guys in the hay fields.he would always say "I don't know if I am gonna do hay this year? but you knew he was gonna raise hay.he was a very active man, that is why he aged long in life...every time i saw him he always had a smile on his face and when we talked his tag phrase was "ok"..i will miss seeing his smile, he made my life better for knowing him and i will "never" forget him

john stevens - January 07 at 08:56 PM



“ John and Gene were the first neighbors we met when we moved to Warren 28 years ago. Gene helped me learn about gardening and John was good for a friendly wave. I will miss seeing him and am sorry for the family.



Heather Arnis - January 07 at 06:06 PM



“ Barb purchased the White Standing Spray for the family of John Frank Vardanega.



Barb - January 05 at 12:17 AM