



## Richard "Dick" B.. Bennett

September 20, 1923 - August 17, 2014

Richard B. "Dick" Bennett, 90, died of natural causes at his home in Brewster, WA on Sunday, August 17, 2014. Dick is survived by his loving wife of 69 years, Shirley A. Bennett; his son Steve Bennett and his daughters, Darla Bennett, Beckie Bennett and Shan Chute. 7 Grandchildren, Tom Dundas, Chad Marcellay, Laura Marcellay, Eric Freels, Joel Bennett, Tyler Marcellay and Will Bennett. 12 great grandchildren, Julian Reyes, Cyrus Smith, Cid Marcellay, Ethan Freels, Talia Freels, Larkin Freels, Hudson and Hadley Freels, Claire and Cate Bennett, Makenna Dundas, Cassius Marcellay and one great great granddaughter, Julysia Reyes.

Born in Detroit, Michigan on September 20, 1923 of William D. and Ruth Bennett, he spent his early years on the farm in Michigan and traveled with his family to Palmer, Alaska when they were selected by the government to settle in the Matanuska valley in 1935. He was fond of telling stories about living and growing up in Palmer and was proud of the part that his family played in the history of Alaska.

By the time they returned to Seattle in 1938 there were 6 children, Dick, Mary Jane, Bob, Jack, Patty, all now deceased, and his youngest brother Bill, now of Marysville, WA.

After graduation from Bellevue High School and a summer spent working in

the woods in Alaska he went to work at the shipyards in the Seattle area, but by 1942 he was partnered in an orchard lease outside of Brewster. After harvest that fall his partner ran off with all the money but Dick had the last laugh, he had already fallen for the farmer's daughter, a relationship that would span seven decades.

In December 1943 he enlisted in the Navy and was taught how to put on a rubber diving suit and a heavy bronze helmet and repair ships underwater. In October 1944 he came home on leave and he and Shirley were married in the Log Church in Brewster.

Discharged from the Navy at the end of 1945 he returned to Brewster and built a modest house out of a couple of orchard cabins. By this time he had already developed the work habits that would make him a legend in this part of the county. In 1947 their first child was born and he was already making plans to open his hardware store which finally opened in February of 1949.

Already an accomplished cabinet maker and a Navy trained metal smith he used the hardware business to learn new things, like appliance and TV repair, oil furnaces, refrigeration and plumbing. He even built his own orchard sprayer. He was the man that people turned to when they couldn't find anyone else to solve their problems, and lack of ability to pay was not an insurmountable obstacle.

All things must come to an end and so it was with the hardware business. But he had a new plan and in the early 70's he said goodbye to hardware and started installing permanent orchard irrigation systems. It was about this time that he joined the Civil Air Patrol and became a pilot, something he enjoyed greatly.

He finally retired in the late 80's but never really stopped putting around in

his shop. Even then he went to the coffee shop every day to talk with his friends and solve the world's problems. He even found time to go fishing once in a while. Dick was known to all for his honesty and gentleness.

So thanks for being there Dick, Dad, Grandpa, whatever we called you, we're going to miss you. Just having you around made the world run a little smoother and that's not a bad thing to say about a man's life, not a bad thing at all.

Services will be at the Bridgeport Cemetery, 11 am Friday, August 22, 2014.  
Visitation at Barnes Chapel, Brewster, 5 to 8 pm Thursday, August 21st.  
Dinner following at The American Legion in Brewster.

# Cemetery Details

## Bridgeport Cemetery

15th ST & Fisk Ave  
Bridgeport, WA

# Previous Events

## Service

AUG 22. 11:00 AM (PT)

Bridgeport Cemetery  
15th ST & Fisk Ave  
Bridgeport, WA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Precht Rose Chapel and Barnes Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard "Dick" B.. Bennett*



---

**Precht Rose Chapel and Barnes Chapel** - August 20, 2014 at 12:40 PM



“ *Richard "Dick" B.. Bennett*

---

January 29, 2023 at 08:49 AM



“ *I didn't get to spend a lot of time with Uncle Dick, but all of my memories of him are fond. He always was kind and had a smile for me. He will be missed by many. Our thoughts and hearts are with you all during this time of transition.*

*Love and HUGE hugs,  
Rachel Smith (niece) and Clif Johnston*

---

**Rachel Smith** - August 23, 2014 at 07:07 PM

LB

“ We know that no words can ever ease the loss of your father. Such a beautiful video tribute. His loving spirit shines through the photos. We never had the honour of knowing your Dad. but I feel he was extra special to many via the tributes. Sorry we are so far away and could not be with you in your time of need. The pain you are experiencing is the depth of the LOVE you hold in your hearts. We thought of you often on Friday and felt your tears. Please know we send you Love and Light. Respectfully yours Linda, Marnie and Jason, Tyler and Shauna. (Sarnia, Ontario, Canada)

---

**Linda (Chute) Bentley** - August 23, 2014 at 11:25 AM



“ I worked at United Supply in Wenatchee in the early 80's. I remember Dick coming in in his red 1 ton Chevy truck and loading it with 2 lifts of pipe on the rack, and has many boxes of valves and fittings as he could fit in the back. Always had a smile on his face, and was happy to take some time out, and just stand and talk.  
*Jim Vines*

---

**Jim Vines** - August 21, 2014 at 05:31 PM