

OBITUARY

Oliver Wendell Osborn

JULY 17, 1924 – NOVEMBER 26, 2020



Oliver Osborn was born in Sacramento on July 17, 1924 to Joseph and Sadie (Young) Osborn. He grew up on a prune ranch in Gridley, CA with his brother David and sister Wilma. He graduated from Gridley High in 1942 and enlisted in the US Army in 1943, serving 3 years during WW 2 with the 20th Armored Division. Upon his discharge in 1946 he entered college, attending several, and graduating from UCLA. In 1950 he began a 35 year career at Barstow High School, serving as a teacher and guidance counselor. During the first year he met and married the Spanish teacher, Lorrie Bejar. Together they sponsored several student groups, most notably Los Amigos and Club de Alegria. Oliver also served a term as the president of the Barstow Education Association. In

1960 Oliver joined his wife as a member of the Catholic Church, attending and volunteering at St Joseph Catholic Church in Barstow. Oliver and Lorrie traveled often, especially to Spain and Mexico. On retiring they were active volunteers in the community and the church. For 13 years they served as docents at the Barstow BLM information center and were active members of the Tumbleweed Division of the California Retired Teachers (where Oliver served a term as president). At St Josephs they acted as the librarians at the Catholic School for 15 years and with the Serra Club, promoting and supporting men seeking to enter the priesthood. Oliver was also a lector and Eucharistic Minister at both English and Spanish masses. Lorrie died in 2006. While attending retired teachers luncheons he reconnected with another Barstow educator, Beverly Crist, and they were married in 2008. Oliver and Beverly enjoyed several years of travelling together; by car, cruise ship and the Barstow Senior Center bus trips. They resided in the home at the Slash X that Oliver and Lorrie bought, enlarged and remodeled. Oliver loved this home and the access it gave him to pursue his love of the desert. His knowledge of desert plants, animals, rocks and weather was remarkable. And he enjoyed sharing this interest with the many family and friends who visited at the home. In late 2012 Oliver and Beverly made the decision to move into town to the mobile home she had purchased in 2006. Leaving the Slash X was difficult, but they recognized the 10 mile drive required to come to town would become more difficult at 88 and 86. They remained together at the senior mobile home park until December 2018 when Beverly's dementia made it necessary for her to move to a secure memory care home in Victorville. Oliver maintained he was able to care for her at home, but recognized that, at 94 and 92, the move was necessary. Oliver continued to live independently until 4 days before his death on Thanksgiving morning, November 26. Oliver had no children of his own, but was loved, honored and respected by the families of his wives, by his three nephews and one niece, and by a number of god sons and daughters. He is preceded in death by his parents, siblings, first wife Lorrie, and a number of cousins. He is survived by wife Beverly, his Osborn

nephews and niece, the very special and close extended family of his first wife, the many godchildren, the family of Beverly, and countless students, coworkers and friends who treasure their relationships with Oliver as he did theirs. Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, December 10 at 10:30 outside at St Joseph Catholic Church with burial following immediately at Mountain View Memorial Park. Masks are required at both locations and attendance is limited per Covid guidelines. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations in Oliver's name to St Joseph Catholic Church or to a charity or organization that has meaning to you and reflects the values you know that Oliver exemplified. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.meadcares.com for the Osborn family.