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Monday, November 26, 2007

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DONALD HUGHES

Donald Hughes, 85, a longtime Sunnyside resident, educator, a former mayor and family man passed away at the University of Washington Medical Center, Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2007.

Don was born Feb. 8, 1922, in Yakima, the son of Dr. Caleb Albert and Pearl (Stanton) Hughes. He was raised in Sunnyside and graduated with the Sunnyside High School class of 1939. Don graduated from the first postgraduate class at Sunnyside High School. He then continued his education for two years at Washington State College. He served in the Army Air Corps from 1942 to 1946 during World War II and played in the Air Corps band. Following his military duty, Don returned to Washington State College and graduated with distinction, earning Bachelor of Arts degree in music and education. He taught music in Burlington-Edison for three years.

Don married June R. Kretz. Together they made their home in Corvallis, Ore. for six years, where their three daughters were born. Don was a co-op owner in a hardboard plant and served on the Board of Directors for the company.

In 1957, the family returned to Sunnyside, where Don began his career with the Sunnyside School District. He taught music for four years, then returned to Washington State University to receive a Masters Degree in counseling and guidance. He was a counselor at the Sunnyside Junior High School for six years, the principal of Outlook School for two years, and then was hired as Federal Programs Director for the school district and remained in that position until his retirement in 1987.

Don served as county president of the Education Association, a negotiator for SEA, a member of WEA, NEA, WASA, and served as state president of the Federal Programs Directors. He was also active in community affairs, serving as a Sunnyside city councilman for 30 years and mayor of Sunnyside for 21 years. Don was a chairman in the Lower Valley and local United Way drives. He served as Hospice Auctions chairman, belonged to the American Legion, Elk's Lodge and was president of the Sunnyside Rotary. Don was a longtime member of the Sunshine Days Committee serving two years as chairman and one year as co-chairman. He served on the Board of Directors for EPIC Headstart and the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic. Don was involved in the Sunnyside Museum Board, Phi Delta Kappa and Boy Scouts. He was named to the Sunnyside High School Wall of Fame.

Music was a big part of Don's life. He played in big bands, jazz combos and sang. He conducted orchestra, band and choral groups. He was a founder of the Lower Valley Musical Comedy Company and worked with the Community Concert Association for years. He was an active lifetime member of the Sunnyside United Methodist Church, serving as music director for many years.

Don cherished time spent with his family; camping, canoeing, hiking, traveling and learning together.

Don is survived by his loving wife, June Hughes of Sunnyside; three daughters, Barbara Shadle of Spanaway, Wendy Riddle (David), of Burbank

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and Rebecca Albert (Steven), of Banks, Ore.; six grandchildren, Krista Cook, Allison Shadle, Kaaryn Fore, David Riddle, Nicholas Albert and Alexandra Albert; one great-grandson, Tristan Cook; and one sister, Barbara Atherton of Redmond.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Viewing and visitation for Don will be held on Friday, Nov. 23, 2007, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Smith Funeral Home in Sunnyside. Graveside services with military honors will be held Saturday, Nov. 24, 2007, at 10 a.m. at Lower Valley Memorial Park in Sunnyside. Memorial services will be held Sunday, Nov. 25, 2007, at 2 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Sunnyside.

Those wishing to honor Don's memory may contribute to the Sunnyside United Methodist Church Memorial Hall or Grand Columbia Council of Boy Scouts of America.

Smith Funeral Home and Crematory in Sunnyside is in charge of arrangements.

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