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# Ralph LeRoy Babcock

Mar 8, 2016

**July 6, 1933 — Feb. 29, 2016**

LeRoy died surrounded by his family at Samaritan Albany General Hospital .

Born in Albany to Ralph L. Babcock and Louise (Haar) Babcock, LeRoy grew up and attended school there, graduating from Albany Union High School in 1952. He was an outstanding athlete — at one point he held the record for lettering in more sports than anyone in Albany – and was a member of the 1952 state championship baseball team. After graduation, LeRoy played semi-pro baseball for the Phoenix Senators and later for the Cleveland Indians. He was a catcher.

He served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Austria. Shortly after returning to Albany from the military, LeRoy started dating Ceal Moody. The two were married in 1955, just six weeks after their first date. LeRoy and Ceal welcomed a daughter in 1957, Melissa.

LeRoy was an avid sportsman. He spent many happy weekends deep sea fishing with friends and family.

He drove truck for Consolidated Freightways for 30 years. After retiring, he helped his wife and daughter with their greeting card business. He was in charge of packaging and shipping orders. He also began playing golf, and for many years he played six days a week.

A lengthy illness 11 years ago left LeRoy partly handicapped, but he never lost his optimistic attitude. His daily routine became going to the Wah Chang gym and then spending time with friends at the VFW.

LeRoy was a strong man and well known for his friendly ways. He was a kind and gentle soul, and was always quick to lend a hand when anyone needed help.

He took particular joy in his two grandchildren.

LeRoy was preceded in death by his parents; sister June Scharer; and his wife of 60 years, Ceal Babcock.

He is survived by his daughter, Melissa Babcock Saylor and husband Steve Saylor of Albany; grandchildren Todd Saylor of Albany, and Megan Saylor McCafferty, husband Matt, and their son, Phillip, of Yakima, Washington.

A memorial service with military honors for LeRoy will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 19, at St. Alban's Episcopal Church. A reception will follow the service.

Donations may be made in memory of LeRoy to SafeHaven Humane Society in care of Fisher Funeral Home, 306 Washington St. S.W., Albany, OR 97321.

Online condolences for the family may be posted at [www.fisherfuneralhome.com](http://www.fisherfuneralhome.com).

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