

Obituary: Ernest Samuel Sites Sr.



OCTOBER 25, 2014 7:30 PM

Ernest Samuel Sites Sr.

Sept. 6, 1920-Oct. 22, 2014

WENDELL • Ernest Samuel Sites Sr., 94, a resident of Mountain Home and formerly of Wendell, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2014, at the VA Medical Center Nursing Home in Boise.

Ernest Samuel Sites (Ernie) was born Sept. 6, 1920, to Ernest and Lura Hockensmith Sites, in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Due to financial struggles brought on from “The Great Depression” Ernie, at the age of 13, along with his younger brother, Jim, and sister, Betty, left Pittsburgh. They were sent to live with his 80-year-old Grandpa and Aunt, on a farm on the north bank of the Ohio River. This was just downstream from Huntington, W.Va. He graduated in 1939 from Chesapeake High School in Chesapeake, Ohio. Ernie excelled at sports in high school and went on to and play college football at Penn. State University on a football scholarship.

With World War II beginning to rage, he decided to join the U.S. Navy in 1943 where he served as a physical fitness instructor and played baseball for the Navy. He very much enjoyed the challenge of working with the sailors as they would come in after months at sea, helping them to get back into peak fitness levels. In 1945, Ernie left the Navy to begin a baseball career, playing both semi-pro and professional baseball; including for the Pittsburgh Pirates among other teams. It was while playing baseball for the Idaho Falls Russets, that he met Elois Ivie. They were married in November of 1952 in Mesa, Ariz., where Ernie was playing pro ball for the Phoenix Senators. The following year their son, Ernie, was born in Idaho Falls. Later followed by sons, Joe, Chuck, Tim, and a daughter, Lorraine. They were all born in Austin, Minn., where Ernie was learning the sheet metal trade while still playing semi pro ball in the Southern Minnesota League.

In 1963, the family moved back to Idaho and bought a farm in Wendell. Two years later their youngest son, Andy, was born in Gooding. Ernie worked as a tinner in the sheet metal industry as a member of a union. He often had to travel for work including two trips to Alaska to work on the Great Alaskan Pipeline. He worked for Rogers Sheet Metal in Twin Falls for many years. He retired from the union in 1982.

He was an avid outdoors man and loved hunting, fly fishing and golf. He developed lifelong loyal friendships through these hobbies including his dear friends, Jim Miller (of Boise) and Rich McNew (of Buhl). Much of his retirement years were spent enjoying his family and friends on the farm in Wendell in the beautiful log home that he and his wife and family built

themselves some 40-plus years ago.

In 2013, Ernie was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, at the age of 93. He very much enjoyed the great fellowship and friendship with the members of the church in Wendell.

Due to health challenges, he and his wife then sold the farm and moved to Mountain Home to live with their daughter and son in law, in March of 2014.

Ernie was diagnosed with terminal cancer in August of this year. He has been staying at the VA Hospital in Boise in the Hospice Center for the past two months. The staff told his family that they had never had a patient there that has had as many visitors and calls as Ernie had. He was truly loved by all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lura and Ernest; his sister, Betty; and his son, Tim. He is survived by his wife, Elois (Ivie) of Mountain Home; sons, Ernie (Barbara) of New York, N.Y., Joe (Jacci) of Idaho Falls, Chuck (Terry) of Vancouver, Wash., Andy (Barbara) of Hagerman; daughter, Lorraine Goodrich (John) of Mountain Home; and daughter-in-law, Lori Sites of Wendell; as well as grandchildren, Sam Sites, Jennifer Drazin, Mike Sites, Amanda Craner, Jessica Sites, Nick Sites, Eva Sites, Patrick Sites, Erin Greener, Ashley VanderStelt, Kaitlin Sites, Chelsea, Jacob, Alyssa and Spencer Goodrich.

The family would like to thank the Boise VA and all the staff at the CLC for the extraordinary care and kindness they gave to our husband/dad/grandpa over these last few weeks.

We love you Dad... you will be ever missed.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 29, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Wendell, with visitation beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the church. Burial will follow at the Wendell Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Demaray Funeral Service, Wendell Chapel.

Condolences and memories may be shared with the family by visiting the obituary link at www.demarayfuneralservice.com.