



## Thomas Earl Bessey

April 23, 1929 - September 4, 2014

THOMAS "TOM" EARL BESSEY April 23, 1929 ~ September 4, 2014  
"Husband, Father, Grandfather, Great-Grandfather, Businessman, and Outdoorsman" Thomas "Tom" Earl Bessey, 85, of Vancouver, WA, passed away Sept. 4, 1929. He was born April 23, 1929 in Merrill, WI to Herbert and Frieda Bessey. Upon graduation from high school, Tom joined his two older brothers in Ashton, ID where he met and married Ila, his wife of sixty four years. Tom and Ila moved to Vancouver, WA in 1958. He worked for a time for Freightliner Inc. of Portland, OR before opening his own business, Bessey Welding and Repair in 1964. For relaxation, Tom enjoyed traveling the world with Ila, mountain climbing with his kids and friends, rock climbing with his late friend, John Boutinen (He did this into his late 60's.) Tom also enjoyed dinner get-togethers - always getting your drink order before your coat was off and all the while Polka music playing loud in the background. ~ He will be missed. ~ Tom is survived by his wife, Ila; daughters, Lois M. Jackson, Patricia K. Sikes (Lewis) and Kathleen "Kat" D. Bessey; son, Timothy E. Bessey; two grandsons, Adam Sikes and Casey Jackson (Tara); two great-grandchildren, Kadin and Audrey, all of Vancouver, WA; sister-in-law, Ellanora Bessey of Merrill, WI; eight nieces and nephews and their children. He was preceded in death by three brothers and two sisters. A graveside service will be held on Wed., Sept. 10, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. at Evergreen Memorial Gardens in the Garden of Hope section. Please join us in the hospitality room afterwards. Please sign his guest book at: [www.columbian.com/obits](http://www.columbian.com/obits).



# Tribute Wall



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