



Reese, Russel Durward
DIV HQ

10/10/1924 - 10/14/2009

Russel died peacefully Oct. 14, 2009, ending a battle with congestive heart failure. The oldest child and only son of Ovid and Esther Reese, he was born in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho. The family moved to Pendleton, where he graduated from Pendleton High School in 1942.

He enrolled at Oregon State College in 1942 and joined the U.S. Army Reserves. Russel was called to active duty in March 1943. He was part of the 96th Infantry Division and served in the South Pacific in Hawaii, Leyte, the Philippines and Okinawa.

In September 1946, he returned to OSC and graduated in 1950 with a degree in mechanical engineering. His working years included employment with Ted Nelson Co., Fentron Highway Products and Thompson Metal Fabricators, retiring March 1987. Russel married Doris (Carlson) in September 1947 and treasured their 62 years of marriage. They enjoyed their home in Portland, raising five children and tending a vegetable garden. A lifelong Lutheran, he was a member of Bethany Lutheran Church for 50 years. He served as a Sunday school teacher, superintendent, usher and for many years on the church council, including council president. He played golf and scored a hole-in-one at Broadmoor Golf Course in 1961. He also played softball, tennis and in 1970 took up cross country skiing.

In 1972 and 1979, he and Doris traveled to Sweden and he visited the Holy Land in Israel in 1993. He is survived by his wife, Doris; daughter, Carolyn (Gordon) Teifel; son, Gerald (Joann); daughter, Sarah (John) Sommer; son, Kenneth (Christy); daughter, Norma (Damon) McCauley; sisters, Ada Shiffer, Jean (Philip) Davis and Virginia (Bill) Sperber; 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, 2009, in Bethany Lutheran Church, Portland. Remembrances to ELCA World Hunger.