

BREAKING Photos: 3 die as cliff collapses on California surfing beach

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Floyd W. Henderson

Mar 20, 2009

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Floyd W. Henderson

May 28, 1918 - March 15, 2009

Floyd W. Henderson, 90, of Grants Pass died Sunday at his home in Grants Pass.

He was born to William and Ina Mae Henderson in Loup City, Neb. He was one of 11 children. He graduated from high school in 1936. After graduating he traveled a little, then went to work for Swanson's in Omaha, Neb. There

he met his future bride, Ann Matya. They were married on Dec. 9, 1941.

In January he was drafted into the Army. He became a bomber pilot with the Army Air Force 671st Squadron. He flew 68 combat missions. He received many honors, including the Distinguished Flying Cross. He joined the Air Force Reserves and did duty periods at Hamilton Air Force Base. He was living in Fort Bragg, Calif., at the time. He suffered an eye injury two weeks before he was scheduled to transition to jets in the Lockheed T-33 and F-80. He was promoted to captain and given an honorable discharge just prior to the Korean War breaking out.

In 1961 he moved his family to Grants Pass and bought an alignment and brake shop, which he called Henderson's Line-Up and Brake Shop. He retired in 1978. However he continued to help out at the shop well into his early 80s. He was a member of St. Anne Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus, the American Legion and the Southern Oregon Warbirds. He enjoyed gardening, playing golf, horseshoes and ping pong. He loved spending time with his family and friends.

He is survived by his wife, Ann; sons Clarke and wife Margo of Rocklin, Calif., and Robert and wife Barbara and John and wife Shawna, all of Grants Pass; daughters

Jacqueline and husband Larry Heer of Albany, Gayle and husband Jerry Sorensen of Selma, Maura and husband Dan Kehr of La Grande, and Mary King of Grants Pass; 10 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by two sons, Tommy in 1988 and Loren in 2008.

A recitation of the rosary will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Hull & Hull Chapel. A memorial Mass will be at 2 p.m. Friday at St. Anne Catholic Church with Monsignor Gregory Moys officiating. A reception will follow the Mass at Allen Creek Neighborhood Church, 922 West Harbeck Road, Grants Pass, OR 97527.

Hull & Hull Funeral Directors are in charge of arrangements. Contributions may be made to St. Anne Catholic School, 1131 N.E. 10th St., Grants Pass, OR 97526.

