



## Forest E. Erickson

August 27, 1919 - January 31, 2013

Forest E. Erickson went to be with our Lord on January 31, 2013. Forest was born on August 27, 1919 in Westville, OK. His family moved to Fort Collins in 1935. Forest worked for the Colorado and Southern Railroad on the section crew, then as a brakeman. He then owned and operated Fort Collins Produce. On Jan 22, 1942 he was inducted in the 90th Division, "The Tough Hombres", 357th Infantry Regiment Company B where he served under General Patton. The 90th Division was one of the 1st battalions to storm Utah beach at Normandy on D Day, June 6, 1944 followed by eleven months of continuous battle ending in Czechoslovakia. Forest received the Purple Heart and two Bronze Star Medals for his "heroic or meritorious achievement or service" in the war. When Forest returned to Fort Collins following the war he met his loving bride of 67 years, Rozella. He began working for Public Service and they moved to Aurora, Colorado in 1948. When Forest retired from Public Service in 1972 he and Rozella returned to Fort Collins. He enjoyed garden railroading, riding his scooter to the health club each morning and telling stories of earlier days in Fort Collins. Forest is survived by his wife Rozella, daughter Linda Dennis Bason, grandson Brian Amy Bason, and two great-grandchildren, Jagger and Burke. He has touched many lives and will be missed by all that knew him. A funeral service will be held Tuesday, 12 p.m., at Southside Baptist Church, 620 Horsetooth Rd. Interment with military honors by the Ft. Collins All Veterans Honor Guard will follow at Resthaven Memory Gardens Cemetery.

# Comments

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“ I first met Forest through our shared interest in garden railways. He and Rozella created a wonderful railroad in their back yard which brought joy to literally thousands of visitors over the years. I never saw either of them without a smile, and they always had a kind word. Forest was a creative innovator, always cooking up some new approach to challenges he faced with his hobby. Most of all, I enjoyed his stories and his wonderful sense of humor. Forest lived an exemplary life and was an inspiration to all of us who knew him.

**Ed Frey** - February 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ I am very sorry to hear of Forest's passing and would like to send my condolences to his family. I knew Forest at the FC Club where we often were in the same locker area. I would chat there with Forest often, or upstairs where he would walk on the treadmill or ride the bike. Forest seemed to be one of the nicest men that I've ever met. When I first met Forest he asked me what I did and I told him that I worked in wheat research at CSU. Forest would always ask me how the wheat was looking and he'd tell me stories of wheat crops that he had seen in his childhood. I really liked talking to Forest, he seemed genuinely interested in what I was up to. One other thing I'd like to comment on is the fact that Forest is a hero for having served our nation in the way that he did in the US Army. When Forest once wore his D-Day shirt I asked him if he was at D-Day and he said yes and I thanked him for his service. I was honored to have known somebody such as Forest and will miss him tremendously.

**Scott Haley** - February 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ It was with great sadness I read of the death of Forest Erickson. In 1987 when I was writing the book about the history of our Laporte farm, Forrest showed up and forever enriched our lives. His family had been "sharecroppers" of the vegetable farm after Rowland Herring had died and lived in the upstairs of our house from 1939 to 1942, sharing it with Herring's widow, Mary . He told so many stories of those tough years which our family treasure.

**Rose Brinks** - February 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM