



Howard L. Parrett

April 6, 1930 - February 23, 2012

Howard L. Parrett of Cheney, WA, went quietly to the Lord on February 23, 2012. He was born on April 6, 1930 in Fort Worth, TX, the youngest of four children, including sisters Vanita and Charlene, and brother Ben, all of whom predeceased him. At the age of 17, while attending Gardena High School in Gardena, CA, Howard joined the Naval Reserve. He was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1948 following graduation when he made a decision to join the Air Force, and began basic training at Lackland AFB. In mid-1955 he was the first enlisted man assigned to a classified Air Force base for the U-2 aircraft test program where he instructed test pilots and Air Force pilots in the effects of high altitude flying. He was then deployed to Giebelstadt, Germany, for six months with an operational squadron of U-2s. After returning to the U.S. in July 1957, he was promoted to 2nd lieutenant in the Air Force Medical Service Corps through a direct commission. During his 23 years of service, he was assigned to Mather, Chanute, Wiesbaden, Wright Patterson, Gunter, Fairchild, Eielson, George, Wheelus, Dyess and Offut Air Force Bases. During his service in the Air Force, he attended college courses over the years at local colleges and universities and eventually received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Nebraska, one month after he retired as a Major. In July 1978 Howard moved to Spokane to serve as administrator at the Shriners Hospital for Children for 16 years, until retiring on October 1, 1994. During his tenure at the Shriner's Hospital, he led the design and construction efforts for the new hospital, and earned his MBA from City

University. Howard was an avid golfer, dog lover and amateur oil painter. Howard and Barbara's miniature schnauzer Mozart brought them great joy over the years, and Howard received much comfort during visits with a schnauzer puppy named Oscar during his last days with us. Over the past 30 years, Howard and Barbara lived in Spokane, East Wenatchee and Cheney, WA. Howard's wife Barbara A. Parrett preceded him in death in October 2011. He is survived by his daughter Denise Parrett of Edmonds, WA; son Larry Parrett and daughter-in-law Keli of Seattle, WA; stepson Todd Lund and daughter-in-law, Lea Anne and step granddaughter, Taylon of Coeur d'Alene, ID; stepdaughter Terisa Lund of Gold Bar, WA; grandsons Chase and Reese Parrett, granddaughter Sara Parrett, step grandson Canyon Sotiropoulas, and many nieces and nephews. Howard will be interred with Barbara at the State Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake, WA. At his request there will be no funeral service, and any memorials in his name can be made to Shriners Hospital for Children, P.O. Box 2472, Spokane, WA 99210-2472.

Tribute Wall

TO

“*'Mr. Parrett,' was a wonderful person to work for, and with. I spent about 12 years working with him, in the 16 years I was at the hospital. He often was a serious person who could rile easy, but I most remember him as a kind and soft-hearted man who did what he could within his power, to help provide for the families we worked with. I was manager for the Family Services department for many years, so had ample opportunities to take a variety of dilemmas to his office. During the days of cigarette smoking in the workplace, I asked him if he could refrain from smoking while I met with him over various issues (especially when I was pregnant and it made me nauseous). He obliged; I provided him with a jar full of peanut m&m's, so he could have something to keep his hands busy during our meetings, rather than smoking a cigarette. I filled that up during two of my pregnancies. He informed me that I didn't need to do so, and he always put his smokes out when I entered but I knew he enjoyed the candy, so it was a done deal, and something I enjoyed doing. He was a great man, and one you should be proud of. My husband always enjoyed his company whenever there was a Shrine function and we could get together with everyone. I hope memories are as positive as mine. Sincerely, TJ O'Dell*

TJ O'Dell - March 07, 2012 at 09:24 PM

BN

“*Howard, Nancy and I will miss you as will all your friends at the Fairways. Rest in peace old buddy.*

Bill and Nancy Nation - March 04, 2012 at 06:14 PM

MF

“ Although we only met briefly when we purchased the home next to Howard and Barbara in Cheney (and sold it without ever moving in) we became fast friends and went to dinner with howard and Barbara and remained in contact for the last five years or so. I regarded Howard as one of my best friends and I miss him very much. We talked up to his death and he knew he and Barbara were always in our thoughts and prayers.

Michael & Lana Fennell - February 28, 2012 at 07:34 PM