



## William Donald Thompson, Sr

January 29, 1923 - May 23, 2016

William "Don" Thompson Sr., 93, of Ephrata passed peacefully to the Lord at Central Washington Hospital on May 23, 2016 with his grandson Richard by his side. Don was born on January 29, 1923 in Lewiston, Idaho. He and his family lived in many towns in the Western U.S. as his dad was a J.C. Penney manager. In Longmont, CO, Don joined the Colorado National Guard at the age of 15.

He entered WWII, where he served in the Philippines as Second Lieutenant on a re-supply ship. After the war, he converted to the Washington National Guard stationed in Ephrata and served as its commander for many years retiring as a Major. Don married his wife of 68 years, Rowana, on April 4, 1945. He graduated from Washington State University with a Pharmacy Degree. He and his young family moved to Ephrata in 1952, where they lived for the rest of their lives. For a few years, he worked double shifts in a local drugstore, then bought Don's Rexall Drug in 1954 renaming it Don's Pharmacy. He owned and operated it for 36 years. After he sold the drugstore, he went into relief pharmacy, then worked as an emergency room pharmacist at Samaritan Hospital in Moses Lake for several years completing his pharmacy career at Super I Pharmacy at the age of 86. We believe that he was the longest practicing pharmacist in the state.

Don dedicated his life to his family and his business. It seems like his only day off (Sunday) didn't go by without someone calling the house saying that they had forgotten to refill their prescription. After saying some words under his

breath, he always jumped in his car and went down to open the store and fill their prescription. Don was a caring husband and father and was a master woodworker, avid gardener, private pilot, HAM radio operator and he hiked most of the Northern Cascades.

Don was a proud veteran of WWII, a 70+ year member of the American Legion and a member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church for 66 years. He was preceded in death by his wife, Rowana, three years ago, his parents and three grandchildren. He leaves behind his sister Gwen Galey of Boise, Idaho; oldest son Don Jr. (Diane), Great grandson Aiden of Ephrata; son Rod of Vaughn, MT with two grandsons, Craig (Christie) of Lynnwood, WA and great-granddaughter Kylie, and Richard (Jois) of North Bend, WA; a daughter Janice of Moses Lake and numerous nieces & nephews.

A celebration of his life will be announced at a later date, with burial in Mitchell, Indiana next to his loving wife. In lieu of flowers, the family simply asks you to keep Don and his family in your thoughts and prayers. Please express your thoughts and memories for the family at [www.nicolesfuneralhome.com](http://www.nicolesfuneralhome.com). Arrangements are under the care of Nicoles Funeral Home of Ephrata, WA.

# Tribute Wall

BF

“ *Special Prayers and thoughts to the family of Don Thompson*

*It is with great regret I need to say so long to Don until we meet again. When I moved to town in Oct. 2009 he made me feel so welcome and secure. He made it known that from his yard and living room not much would get by him. That was most welcoming to me!*

*It was wonderful for the next six years visiting with him, enjoying his beautiful yard and feeling safe. He has left us some big shoes to fill. Enjoy the gardens of Heaven Don.*

*The new neighbor on the block,  
Brenda Follett*

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**Brenda Follett** - November 22, 2016 at 11:24 AM

ML

“ *Captain Thompson was the Battery Commander for the local National Guard Unit when I joined in 1956 and his guidance was instrumental in my choice for a career. A wonderful man and a fine leader. He will be missed by all that knew him Mike Lehmann*

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**MICHAEL LEHMANN** - June 09, 2016 at 01:11 PM

MP

“ *Marian Menzia Pedersen lit a candle in memory of William Donald Thompson, Sr*



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**Marian Menzia Pedersen** - June 08, 2016 at 07:47 PM

GS

“ *What a wonderful man. We were recipients of his kindnesses, more than once. Even one Christmas day, when our small son was so ill, Don hustled down to the store to fill a prescription for us. Praise God for that man.*

*We hold you, his family, in our hearts and in our prayers.*

*Sincerely, Ron and Gaye Scheib*

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**Gaye Scheib** - June 08, 2016 at 10:36 AM

FW

*What a great person, I transferred from the National Guard unit in Poulsbo to Ephrata in 1950, and Don was commanding officer, when I moved to Ephrata in 1996, I was neighbor to Don and we visited and exchanged ideas and materials until he departed! Sure do miss his commaradie and humor!*

*Frank Wright*

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**Frank Wright** - October 22, 2017 at 02:18 AM