



# Erling Holand

FEB 18, 1920 - FEB 7, 2015



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## **Erling Holand**

FEB 18, 1920 - FEB 7, 2015

**E**rling I. Holand  
Born: February 18, 1920  
Died: February 7, 2015

Erling was born to parents Henry and Augusta Holand on a homestead in Ambrose ND. His family moved to the Everett area early in his childhood. He was a child of the Depression and at the age of 15 he started yearly trips to Alaska on his own to work in canneries to help support himself and his family. His success at football at Everett HS provided him the opportunity to attend college when PLC's coach Olson offered him a "scholarship". Erling played guard on PLC's great football teams of the early forties.

A blind date in 1942 changed his life forever. Erling met Fern Irene Dahl and fell hopelessly in love. They eloped February 19, 1943, just before he was to start flight training for the Army AirCorp. During WWII Erling piloted a B-29 Superfortress on 35 combat bombing missions over Japan. He was awarded the Flying Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He finished his tour of duty just as the first atomic bomb was dropped over Hiroshima from another B-29.

Erling returned to Pacific Lutheran after the war, played one more year of football and graduated with a teaching degree. With his young family, son Dick born in October, 1944 and daughter Carolyn born in September, 1946, he started a 30 year career in the Shoreline School District. Erling taught elementary school for less than three years when he was tapped to begin administrative duties. He served as an elementary school principal until Shoreline High School was opened with Erling as its first VP. He then opened Shorecrest HS as its first principal and later served as Personnel Director for the Shoreline Schools.

After Erling retired from his school career he and Fern traveled a bit and enjoyed their cabin on the water on Camano Island. They spent many winters in the Needles, CA area with frequent trips to Laughlin, NV. Erling and Fern travelled to Reno so often by car that he could recite the exact number of miles between any of the cities on their route. He started his second career when he went to work part-time for Longacres, the famed horse racing track in Tukwila. Erling worked as a teller at Longacres and then at Emerald Downs for 31 years. We joked that he had to take



## Obituary

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mandatory retirement this time at the age of 92.

Erling and Fern were married 12 days short of 72 years. During those years of love and respect, they simply taught us by their example. They were always together and that's the way they both wanted it to be. It seemed that almost everything he did was with Fern in mind. When Erling was asked the secret to his longevity, he replied, "I married the right person." Erling loved people and he loved life. He took nothing for granted, worked hard for everything he had, and thanked everyone for their generosity and care. He could fix anything with duct tape or rubberbands. He threw away nothing of "value". He was funny and his love for all things Norwegian sometimes made him funnier. He always told us he loved us, but we already knew that. He always found the good in people and we loved him so.

Erling leaves his wife Fern, son Dick and daughter-in-law Beth, daughter Carolyn, grandchildren Beth, Erik, Carolyn, and Carly. He has 9 great-grandchildren, Kady, Cameron, Chase, Lucy, Vincent, Roman, Hannah, Aden and Chance.



# Tribute Wall

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**Marilou Wesley** posted:

My sympathy to your family on the loss of a true gentleman. I remember Erling from the time Fern and I worked together at the Northshore Citizen. I enjoyed him when he came by the office. I always thought how lucky Fern was to have such a thoughtful and caring husband. I've thought of you over the years and have wondered how you were doing. I'm glad you were able to have 72 happy years together. He'll be missed by all his family. Marilou Wesley

February 21 at 10:58 AM



**Ruby McClafin** posted:

Dear Fern and family. I was sorry to hear about Erling. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of you. I have many pleasant memories of Erling and you, and the entire family. Love, Ruby (Dahl) McClafin

February 18 at 3:50 PM



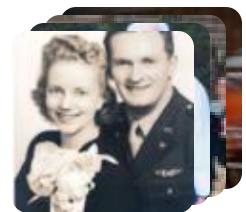
**Lyle Attebery** posted:

My dear Holand Family!!!! I can only say I was honored to know Erling (husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and friend)!! Never, in all the times that I was able to visit with him was I not greeted warmly and listened to like I was the only person in the room. He truly cared about me and how I was getting along!! I will miss him terrible, but I have the fondness memories which I will cherish. Thank you all for sharing him!!

February 17 at 3:39 PM



**Mountain View Funeral Home, Memorial Park & Crematory** shared an album called **Memories Album**.



February 15 at 6:22 AM



**Richard Reuther** posted:

Like so many of the "greatest generation," Holand never mentioned his military service. Only in my later years have I become appreciative of those services and sacrifices. He was a very strong, yet gentle presence at Shorecrest High ('62-'65). My condolences to his family.

February 15 at 3:45 PM



## Tribute Wall

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KS

**Kathleen Storey** posted:

I remember Mr. Holand so very well as my principal at Shorecrest Highschool 1962-1965, I also had a chance to catch up with him at our 40th reunion, Such a nice man with a warm and wonderful smile. 'very sorry to hear of his passing. Condolences to all of his family.

February 15 at 2:31 PM

KT

**Karen Taylor** March 13 at 6:38 AM

I was in the first graduating class at Shorecrest High School (Class of 64) and was thrilled to see Mr. Holand at our 50th High School reunion! I couldn't believe my eyes...there he was! Seeing him brought back a lot of memories of what a kind man he was and so steady. It was just the best to have him there. For the family I know it is so very difficult to have him go. God Bless his soul.

JB

**Jo Benedetti** posted:

Really nice obituary for your father Dick. I didn't know all of that about him. I love the art about duct tape and rubberbands too. -- jo benedetti

February 15 at 6:22 AM



# Media

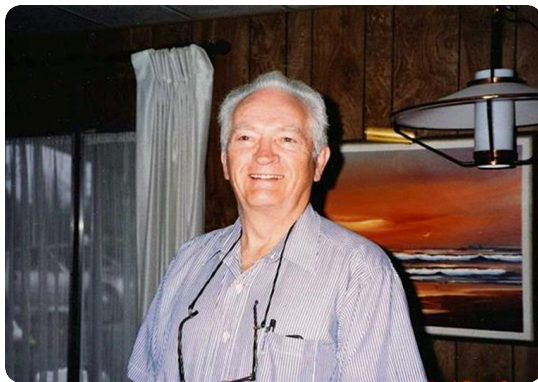
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Mountain View Funeral Home, Memorial Park & Crematory shared 4 photos to the **Memories Album** album.

February 16 at 6:18 AM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Erling by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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