

10-29-2005

Four Flats Memorial Service

George Fox University Archives

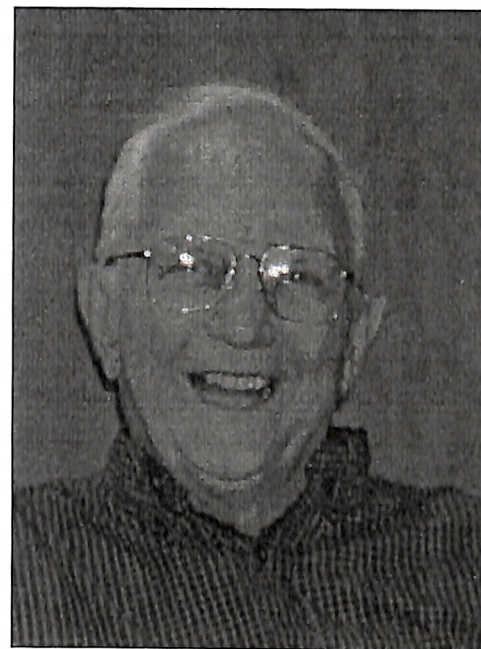
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In Loving Memory



Ronald St. Clair Crecelius
March 2, 1921 — October 21, 2005

"I will praise the Lord no matter what happens. I will constantly speak of his glories and grace. I will boast of all his kindness to me. Let all who are discouraged take heart.

Let us praise the Lord together, and exalt his name.

The Lord is close to those whose hearts are breaking; he rescues those who are humbly sorry for their sins. The good man does not escape all troubles—he has them too.

But the Lord helps him in each and every one."

Psalms 34:1-3, 18-19 (The Living Bible paraphrase)

Ronald St. Clair Crecelius accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior on October 10, 1947, and went to his eternal home with him in heaven on October 21, 2005, at the age of 84. Ron was born on March 3, 1921, in Columbus, Indiana, to Charles and Revetta St. Clair Crecelius. His older brother, Charles, preceeded him in death.

Ron was a member of the famed Four Flats Quartet—including Dick Cadd, Norval Hadley, and Harlow Ankeny—which was formed at George Fox College in 1946. The quartet won the Northwest Barbershop Harmony Championship Contest two years in a row. They sang nationwide on the CBS Radio Network. After college, they traveled extensively with Youth for Christ, ministering in schools, churches, youth rallies, and service clubs.

In 1956, Bob Pierce, founder of World Vision, invited the quartet to accompany him on a tour of Korea. This began their association with World Vision, where they were known as the World Vision Quartet. They sang for radio broadcasts, Phil Kerr programs, Billy Graham crusades, and Presidents Eisenhower and Nixon at the presidential prayer breakfasts. During this time with World Vision, they traveled the United States and Orient and released many recordings.

As a recorded minister in the Friends Church, Ron pastored in the Northwest and California. Later he served as a military academy chaplain before assuming the George Fox College chaplaincy. Ron served as chaplain at George Fox College (now University) from 1967 to 1985. He became chaplain emeritus and evangelist at large for the college before becoming an independent speaker throughout the West. Since 1962, Ron served as chaplain (Lt. Colonel) with the Civil Air Patrol—an auxiliary of the Air Force.

Ron earned two degrees from George Fox College and master's degrees from Western Evangelical Seminary and Pasadena College. In 1981 Ron was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Western Evangelical Seminary. He has been a member of the American Guild of Variety Artists, Optimist International, and National Educators Fellowship.

On June 19, 1947, Ron married his college sweetheart, Divonna Schweitzer (a.k.a. his mouse) who faithfully served by his side for 58 years. He leaves in her care five children, eleven grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren.

Children:

Ron and Marva—Haines, Alaska
Diann and Ray Garner—Hayden Lake, Idaho
Rod and Sandy—Hayden Lake, Idaho
Denise Baird—Newberg, Oregon
Robin and Renee—Haines, Alaska

Grandchildren: Danielle Roberts, Rosann Anderson, Michelle Westling, Kori Ann Shipley, Rian Crecelius, Kevin Jackson, Anna Crecelius, Ellen Crecelius, Halee Baird, Seth Baird, Kyle Jackson

Ron was friend, mentor, confidant, husband, father, and grandpa and could liven a room with his humor and smile. The vacancy his passing leaves in our individual lives will be filled with all the wonderful priceless memories he made with us.

Memorial Service for Ron Crecelius
October 29, 2005
Newberg Friends Church

Prelude — Four Flats Quartet

Prayer and Opening Remarks — Norval Hadley

Congregational Song
When We All Get to Heaven — Hymn #123

Tribute — Steve Fine

Duet — "Thank You for Giving to the Lord"
Danielle Roberts & Rosann Anderson, Ron's granddaughters

Words of Encouragement — Norval Hadley

Video

Congregational Song
How Great Thou Art — Hymn #2

Contributions can be made to the George Fox University
Scholarship Fund or Twin Rocks Friends Camp.