

## MARTIN 'CECIL' HODGES OBITUARY



Martin Cecil Hodges

August 18, 1932 - March 2, 2021

Known as "Cece" to his family and friends. He was born on August 18, 1932 in Demming, NM. The youngest child of six children born to Gertrude C. Thompson and Arthur L. Hodges. His family moved to Eugene, Oregon in 1942, where he attended River Road Elementary, Colin Kelly Jr High and Eugene High School. Cecil was a four-sport athlete and his athleticism garnered him a football scholarship at the University of Oregon, where he played under Len Casanova and Bill Bowerman. During his fifth year, he assisted Bowerman as a freshman coach. While at the UO, Cecil joined the ROTC. After college, he was commissioned into the Army and served 2 years in Korea. Cecil remained active in the Reserve for 19 years and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Cecil earned his master's in education. His first teaching position was at North Eugene High School, where he coached varsity football and basketball, and taught mathematics and driver's education. During this time, he also became a trainer for the Eugene Emeralds baseball team. After five years teaching there, he was hired as an Athletic trainer at Springfield College in Massachusetts and

he taught there for two years. Cecil returned to Eugene with his family in 1965 when he was recruited to be one of the first six faculty hired at the newly opened Lane Community College. During his 27-year tenure, he served as chairman of the physical Education Department and was the Athletic Director. As a lifelong athlete, Cecil turned his personal talents to the area of Badminton where he became a senior champion, placing 2nd in national competitions. He also provides a scholarship to a walk-on athlete like himself at the UO. Family was important to Cecil. He was married to his first wife, Helen Skochenko, for 35 years, until she passed in 1995. He and Helen had two children, Marlene H. Resch (David R. Resch, JR.) and Edward A. Hodges (Dr. Holly Jo Ledgerwood Hodges). Cecil has two grandchildren, Kenzie and Jaelen. Following Helen's death, Cecil was again lucky in love and married Starly Friar in 2000. They were happy together for over twenty years. Cecil and Starly traveled to Palm Desert, Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, Mexico, Europe, and enjoyed several cruises. They shared a love of the Oregon DUCKS and supported Football and Basketball. They were also active members of Wesley United Methodist Church.

Teaching may have been Cecil's vocation, but his true passion was Real Estate. He earned a real estate license in 1963, and worked in property management, sales, and listings. He opened Combined Realty Services in 1980. One of his favorite community service endeavors was serving on the board of directors at Driftwood Shores in Florence for over 40 years.

Those who knew Cecil knew his mottos; "Be nice to people, it doesn't cost you anything." And he was also known for giving out \$2 bills and telling people that if they didn't spend them, they'd never be broke. Cecil would tell people that if they ever needed anything, he'd be there.

Over the past two years Cecil's son, Ed, has provided unwavering support and care to his father, for which the entire family is deeply grateful.

He is survived by his sister Letha (Hodges) Collver (Richard "Dick" Collver) Bend, his loving wife Starly Friar Hodges, his four stepsons and their families,

immediate family mentioned previously, and many nieces and nephews.

A private family graveside service is being planned.

In lieu of flowers please donate to the health, physical education and athletics department at Lane Community College in Cecil's name.