Resident Spotlight: The Ryans

Born on July 8, 1941, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Robert Ryan and his family moved to Tacoma, Washington, when he was a young boy. He lived in Washington until he joined the Air Force at the age of 18.

Evelyn Withem was born on August 27, 1945, in Baker, Oregon, where she remained until she married Robert on July 3, 1964.

It was Evelyn who first took an interest in the truth. She worked with a Witness and was curious about why she didn’t celebrate Christmas. After learning the answer to that question, she was intrigued and wanted to learn more. Evelyn’s interest in studying with Jehovah’s Witnesses was not received favorably by Robert. As her interest grew, so did his determination to deter her from studying. Robert went as far as moving the family from Portland to Eugene, Oregon, to get Evelyn away from the Witnesses. However, this plan was quickly foiled after the Ryans discovered that on the other side of the fence in their new home was a Kingdom Hall! Evelyn quickly resumed her studies and progressed to the point of baptism.

Robert continued to oppose Evelyn’s decision as the years continued. His frustration brought him to the point of threatening to file for divorce. Evelyn asked him to talk to a brother from the Kingdom Hall before proceeding with the divorce. Robert agreed and was visited by a brother that evening. Not only did Robert change his mind about the divorce, he also began to study and was baptized in 1970. When asked why he eventually changed his mind, he said that Evelyn’s example really made an impression on him. Her persistence for the truth was incredible. He also couldn’t help but notice that she continued to care for him despite the things that he said and did. The Ryans are living proof of the truth behind the words recorded at 1 Peter 3:1.

Together, Robert and Evelyn raised Michael, Mollie and Mitch. All three of their children have grown up to be faithful servants of Jehovah. Mitch credits his parents with always being a good example. Robert and Evelyn pioneered together for 13 years. Evelyn continued to pioneer with each of her children and remains on the infirmed pioneer list to this day. While raising a family in Montana, the Ryans took their young children to New York to visit Bethel. This made Bethel a goal for their children at an early age. All three of them were blessed with the privilege of serving at Brooklyn or Wallkill, making their parents and Jehovah very proud.

The Ryans came to Legacy Place in April of 2018 and now greatly enjoy the spiritual routine as well as frequent visits from their children and grandsons (Brady and Jake). They always had the desire to serve at Bethel and they commented how living at Legacy, surrounded by their brothers and sisters, feels a lot like their Bethel dream coming true!
Residents, or their Power of Attorney, will soon receive a packet from Legacy Place Management requesting updated information. It is our desire to ensure that we have accurate records in order to provide the highest quality of care. The packet will include three forms. The first form requests insurance information. The second form is a financial update. The third form is for residents who would like to sign up to use an ACH deposit to pay the monthly rent. Once you have received the forms, please complete them and return to Legacy Place. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Robert Bush: May 18, 1923-December 23, 2018

Robert J. Bush was born on May 18, 1923, in Philadelphia, PA. His father had a stroke when he was a child. When he was older, he went to live on his uncle’s farm in Perkasie, PA, to help support his mother and brother. It was in Perkasie that Bob met Dorothy. Within a year they were married, on November 26, 1942. Their honeymoon was short-lived, as after just three short months he was drafted. Their first son, Robby, was born in 1944 while his father was overseas. He returned home to his family after the war in 1946. Bob also returned to his job on the Reading Railroad. He worked there for the next two decades supporting his family, which grew to include two more children, Wendy and Kevin.

Upon returning from the War, Bob was disheartened by the hypocrisy of being a German Catholic going to war against other German Catholics overseas. Not long after, Sister Emma Waller knocked on their door. The Bible’s promise of a world without war was music to Bob’s ears. He was baptized on August 27, 1949. Dorothy was baptized a year later.

Within a short period of time, the Bushes were asked to move to Phoenixville, PA, where there were just 18 Witnesses. There they spent the next 17 years. In 1967, the Phoenixville congregation had grown to almost 70 Witnesses. So Bob and Dorothy answered the call to “move where the need was great” in Chadron, Nebraska. Bob found a job working for Nebraska Public Power. Bob and Dorothy enjoyed a rich and productive ministry in Nebraska.

In the mid-1980s, Robert and Dorothy left Nebraska to care for Dorothy’s mother in Perkasie, PA. One of Bob’s many joys during this time was the privilege of working with the painting crew on Kingdom Hall building projects in the greater Philadelphia area and beyond. Robert finally retired at the age of 86.

Bob was known for his kindness, generosity and understanding to all whom he met. He thoroughly enjoyed his brief time at Legacy Place...especially the delicious meals!

He is survived by his wife of 76 years, Dorothy, his daughter, Wendy, and his son, Kevin. He also had 5 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. A rich legacy indeed.
Employment Opportunities
Legacy Place is accepting employment applications. Stop by for an application or contact employment@legacyplace.org.

Resident Application Update
We have received many applications in the past few months and are now full in both Personal Care and Memory Care! We are accepting applications for our wait list. Please contact Meghan at meghan.dunton@legacyplace.org for more information.

Volunteering
Legacy Place appreciates what our volunteers do for our residents. We couldn’t do it without you! If you are interested in donating your time and/or talents, send an email to marie.scully@legacyplace.org.

Mailing List
If you, or someone you know, would like to receive a copy of our newsletter, please email meghan.dunton@legacyplace.org. You can request to receive your newsletter through the mail, electronically, or both!

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A Day at Legacy

Have you ever wondered what a day looks like for our residents? Below is a sample schedule for a typical Monday in Personal Care. In addition to the activities below, our residents also enjoy exercise, baking, crossword puzzles and more each week!

7:00-9:00 - Breakfast
9:30 - Meeting for Field Service
10:30 - Kingdom Melodies
12:15 - Daily Text
12:30 - Lunch
1:00 - Meeting for Field Service
2:00 - Bible Reading
5:30 - Dinner
6:45 - Movie: Residents’ Choice