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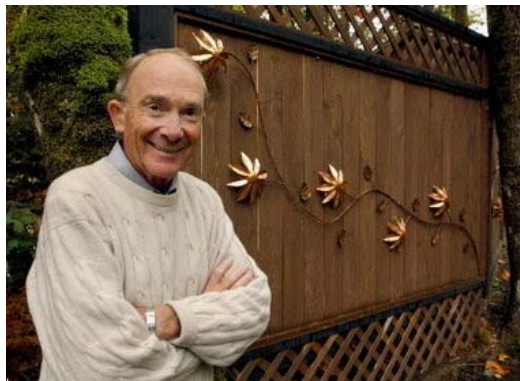
Chuck Clemans, 2009 Oregon City Citizen of the Year, dies in car crash

Published: Friday, December 23, 2011, 11:48 AM Updated: Friday, December 23, 2011, 12:33 PM



By **Rick Bella, The Oregonian**
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Chuck Clemans, honored in 2003 for his contributions to the arts, was also known for supporting education, civic causes, environmental protections and civil rights.

Chuck Clemans of Oregon City, a longtime educator, civic activist and supporter of the arts, was killed Thursday evening in a one-car crash in Mulino. He was 77.

Clemans was serving his second term on the Clackamas Community College Board after a 10-year stint as superintendent for the Oregon City School District. He was heavily considered for appointment to the vacant state superintendent of public instruction job in 1989, when Verne Duncan resigned for a job at the University of Portland.

But it was as a civic activist that Clemans made his greatest mark, standing up for environmental protection while participating in beautification projects, promoting local business and defending civil rights.

For his efforts, he was named Oregon City Citizen of the Year in 2009.

"He will leave a hole in so many parts of the community," said Alice Norris, former Oregon City mayor. "He was a teacher and a giver -- always. With his diverse interests, he touched so many communities of people."

Clemans served as president of the Oregon City-West Linn Rotary Club, chairman of the Community Plus Christmas Party and chairman of the Three Rivers Boy Scout Council. A history buff, he also served on the boards of the development committees for the Clackamas County Historical Society and the McLoughlin Memorial Association. He was president of the Portland State University Alumni Association, and was named the university's Outstanding Alumnus in 1994.

He taught public school administration at Lewis and Clark College and collective bargaining at Portland State.

He was a lifelong bicyclist, tennis player, boater and skier. As a young man, he used to race Lotus and Porsche sports cars.

Clemans was born in Camas, Wash., where he graduated from high school. He then attended Clark College in Vancouver, cementing his lifelong affection for community colleges. He was a member of Portland State University's first graduating class in 1956.



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Clemans then taught in Portland Public Schools before completing a two-year hitch in the U.S. Army and returning again to teaching. He eventually became director of governmental relations, serving as the school district's lobbyist in Salem and Washington, D.C.

after crash; Lake Oswego mansion a tough sell

In 1980, he was hired as Oregon City school superintendent, a job he held until 1990.

Meanwhile, he married attorney Nancy Hungerford in 1987. They honeymooned at Timberline Lodge, where they returned every year for their anniversary.

On July 4, he suffered a bad fall at the Oregon City Dock and spent more than 10 weeks in the hospital. When he was released, he immediately went back to work.

"Chuck very much believed in community service," said Hungerford. "What he could leave to the community was the thing most important to him.

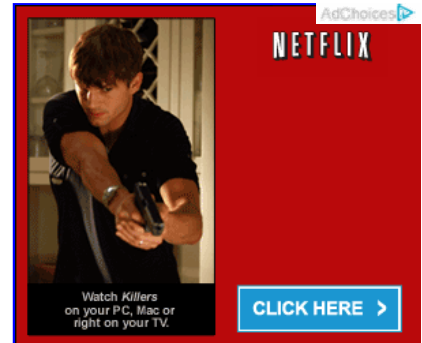
Besides his wife, survivors include his sister, Lois Buhman of Newton, Wash.; brothers, Bill of Lake Stevens, Wash., and Lloyd of Battle Ground, Wash.; sons, Glen of Sherwood and Dean of Gresham; and three grandchildren.

A memorial service is planned for Jan. 7, with arrangements to be announced.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions in his memory to the Clackamas Community College Foundation.

-- Rick Bella; twitter.com/southnewshound






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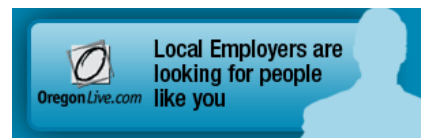
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This is sad news, indeed. Chuck was an amazing man, and gave so much to his community. A life well lived. He will be missed.

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Chuck's leadership was strong and evident in Clackamas County, but he also made a profound impact statewide in support of community colleges. Without his relentless advocacy and

consistent work holding together community colleges around shared priorities, we would simply not have made the record-setting state investments in community college capital construction in 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010.

Chuck has many legacies, but there will be quality community college facilities across Oregon educating students and preparing our future workforce for decades to come because of Chuck's leadership and service.

Well done, Chuck, good and faithful servant.

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A class act. A total class act.

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I had the privilege of volunteering with Chuck as a member of the Foundation board of Clackamas Community College. Chuck demonstrated a tremendous, relentless commitment to raising funds to support scholarships for deserving students, for special grants for teacher projects, and importantly, for the educational excellence and the opportunity for learning for all our community. Chuck was an exceptional person - someone whose work we can all follow.

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Those knowing Chuck believe he merited succession of Vern Duncan as Oregon State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Instead, his commendatory skills and acumen brilliantly spread out over a host of academic fields, all with honors. Cheers, indeed!

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