

Bertram Grable

Bertram Wayt Grable, 93, passed away peacefully at his home in Sequim, WA on January 5. He was born February 5, 1929, in Carroll, IA to Velma (Wayt) and Bertram Mauger Grable. He spent his early years in Sac City, IA where he acquired three of his lifelong interests: tuba, football, and math. He was an Eagle Scout and enjoyed high adventure at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. In school, Bert was assigned the tuba because he was the only student big enough to carry one in the marching band, but soon grew to love it. He also lettered in football on the Sac City High team, playing the position of guard, an experience that later inspired his fervent support of the Denver Broncos. Following his graduation, he and his mother moved to Greeley, CO where he attended Colorado State College, earning both a bachelor's and master's degree in Mathematics. In 1954 he married Cecille Joyce Kliever and moved the couple to State College, PA and later to Dover, DE, where he served in the Air Force as a meteorologist. He was proud (and nervous) to have delivered the forecast for one of President Eisenhower's flights on Columbine III.

After leaving the Air Force as a captain in 1958, he moved his family to California where he honed his math skill as a programmer for Douglas Aircraft, and later to Denver where he worked for Martin Marietta and Burroughs Corp. The couple divorced in 1961, but Bert stayed in Denver, going on to work as a systems analyst for the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad until his retirement. During his Denver years, Bert played tuba with the Denver Concert Band and participated in many Tuba Christmas celebrations.

In 1986, Bert married Jessica McIntire and moved to Cheyenne, WY where she was employed by the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Wyoming. Bert enjoyed early retirement as a master gardener, playing tuba with the Dixie Dudes and rehearsing for tubists substitute with the Cheyenne Symphony. Following Jessica's retirement in 1996, they lived in Port Angeles until Bert's illness required a move to Sequim in April 2022. Bert attended Queen of Angels Catholic Church and was a member of Knights of Columbus. He served on the board of Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County and belonged to the Juan de Fuca Kiwanis Club. He played tuba with the Dungeness Traditional Jazz Band and was Dr. Hammar's "favorite tuba player." He was noted for his wry, quirky and unique sense of humor.

Bert is survived by his wife Jessica, his children and stepchildren, James Grable and Joan Macdonald, Lizabeth McIntire, Maureen Larson, and grandchildren Kaitlin Macdonald, Ian Macdonald and Hannah Grable, as well as two step grandchildren and nine step great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, and stepchildren, Chris, Matthew and Roberta McIntire, and one step grandchild, Alex Thomas.