

**Robert "Huck" Maioli O'Neil**  
**February 21, 1931, Bridgeville PA**

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**April 29, 2012, Seattle WA**

Robert "Huck" O'Neil was born Saturday February 21, 1931 in Bridgeville PA to Anita (nee Maioli) and Patrick O'Neil, the youngest of 7 children. Fiery red hair, he was a terror in and around the area, known to his mother as a "little red headed brat". Huck got his nickname from his adventurous spirit and dislike for shoes like a little "Huckleberry Finn". There were a number of Maiolis in the area and they had a very strong impact on his life as he grew up.

Huck was a man who went from local high school three (Football, Baseball, Basketball) sport legend to Duquesne, Notre Dame and Steelers standout, a football player who dived into the middle of life and NFL lines with every ounce of fervor in his large, muscular body. Not interested in the fledgling NBA, hoping for an MLB spot (his first love was baseball), drafted into the NFL in 1953, before he could play, Huck was sent to France to serve in the Air Force during the Korean War. One of the only Americans ever to play rugby in the French Rugby League, Huck continued to astound us with his athletic prowess. Returning to the US after his deployment, Huck played for the Pittsburgh Steelers, Calgary Stampeders (CFL), Montreal Allouettes (CFL), and the NY Titans (now Jets), retiring in 1962. Hall of fame Quarterback Johnny Unitas was a camp mate (Johnny got cut, but Huck made the team!). Huck chose football over an offer to play for a professional baseball team, because his mother wanted him to be the first of the family to get a college degree.

Huck met his lifelong love, Margaret "Peggy" O'Neil (nee McGrath), at a Steelers function where she was working as a model. His degree in hand, Huck joined Ryan Homes (now Ryland International) and began a career of building single family communities throughout North America. One of his designs led to introducing affordable, single family homes into the mainstream of the 1970's through 1990's. Eventually achieving the title of Vice President Development and Sales, Huck's career brought him and his family around the US and Canada. He was Past President of the Homebuilders Association and "Kentucky Colonel" (bestowed as an honorary title by the governor of Kentucky): a testament to his popularity.

Huck retired in 1980 and went to work for himself as a General Contractor. Some accomplishments that he was proud of were building a Seminary Campus in Calgary, Canada and Habitat for Humanity homes in California and Arizona. Centralia Washington was where he and Peggy lived the longest continuous stretch, enjoying hunting, fishing, and the Pacific NW lifestyle. He was active in St. Mary's Church in Centralia, a member of the Knights of Columbus, and doting husband.

Huck is preceded in death by wife Peggy (2008) and daughter Colleen (1966) and survived by seven children and their families: Glenn (Newton MA), Anita (Chicago IL), Bob (Kirkland WA), Kevin (Centralia WA), Sean (Rochester WA), Erin (Denver CO), and Brian (Olympia WA), fifteen grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Services will be held Saturday, May 5, 2012 at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church,

17856 NE Woodinville-Duvall Road, Woodinville WA 98077

Phone: 425-806-8096 - Fax: 425-806-8109

<http://blessedteresa.org/>

10:00 am: viewing

10:30 am: rosary

11:00 am: mass

In lieu of flowers, please send a donation to Blessed Teresa (see address above) and specify for "**Sandwiches for the Homeless Ministry**" in Dad/Huck/Papap's memory. Thanks!