



In Loving Memory Of

Eugene M. Hermelin

Our Beloved Father and Friend

Eugene Matthieu Hermelin was born October 14, 1917, in Dead Ox Flat, Idaho. He moved to Oregon when he was five years old. He moved to Washington County in the 1930s. He got his schooling in Reedville and attended high school at Benson High School in Portland.

One of his first jobs was as a commercial fisherman on the lower Columbia River. While doing this he was needed to take his sister-in-law by boat to the hospital and the baby chose to come early. His first act of service was in the delivery of that baby.

Later he moved to Portland and he worked in various jobs in restaurants driving taxi. It was while he was driving the taxi that he was called upon to perform his second act of service when he delivered another baby.

He tried to join the military during World War II, but was unable to serve due to hearing impairment. During the war he worked in the woods and drove shipyard bus. Later, he was able to join the Merchant Marines. While on board ship out at sea, he performed Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation to aid in saving the life of a fellow marine. He served in the Merchant Marines for 25 years.

After retiring from Merchant Marines at the age of 67, he drove long-haul trucks under a private contract to deliver U. S. Mail. When this job didn't work out, he worked in a machinist's shop until he had to quit due to heart problems. He had open heart surgery where five by-passes were performed.

It was after this surgery that he became very active in driving for the different organizations. It began at four hours a day once a week and has been so enjoyable that he is now driving six to twelve hours a day five days a week. On the weekend when most people are enjoying their time off, Gene takes Senior Citizens on trips to the Opera, the beach, to look at Christmas lights and boats, and anywhere they may want to go on an excursion.

From January 1, 1989 to January 1, 1990 he had 1,000 hours logged with Washington County Community Action, and this does not count any time with any other organization or the time spent recuperating from prostrate surgery.

December, 1989, also saw him and his wife cooking and serving a spaghetti dinner to WCCAO (Washington County Community Action) employees. This includes the food bank, Head Start, Tri-Met director of transportation, and Senior Center employees, etc. This dinner included homemade spaghetti sauce cooked by Gene which takes six to eight hours and over 250 meatballs hand-rolled by Gene.

Through the years of blood donations, Gene has managed to donate over three gallons of blood.

Mention needs to be made of the time that is not kept track of where he serves his family, friends, neighbors, and others repairing cars and hauling wood to help them have safe transportation and warmth in the winter. He has spent so much time doing this that there is no way to define the hours that have been spent. His time spent with the Gleaning Association has also benefitted many.

It should also be said that he has four children of his own and is the step-father to six others. He has spent innumerable hours helping all of his children and their schools in many ways. He chaperoned school dances, assisted at school events, ran the children to all the activities that children need to attend--whether in grade school, junior high school, or high school.

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION

451 S. First Ave., Suite 700, Hillsboro, OR 97123

Hillsboro Office

451 S. First Ave., Suite 700
Hillsboro, OR 97123

648-6646 – Administration

- Executive Director
- Children & Youth
- Resource Development

648-0829 – Client Services

- Information & Referral
- Intake & Assessment for all WCCAO Services
- 1-800-533-5941
Special Transportation
- 640-8951 (part year)
Heating Assistance

Emergency Shelter Home

210 S.E. 12th
Hillsboro, OR 97123

648-0829

- Temporary Family Shelter

Aloha Center

20515 S.W. Blanton
Aloha, OR 97007

642-3236

- Tualatin Valley Food Center
- Christmas Clearing Bureau
- Weatherization
- Fair Housing
- Housing Advocacy
- Fiscal Department
P.O. Box 7069
Aloha, OR 97007

Neighborshare

12230 S.W. Main St.
Tigard, OR 97223

639-0495

- Information & Referral
- Intake & Assessment for all WCCAO Services

Play It Again (Thrift Store)

4955 S.W. Hall Blvd.
Beaverton, OR 97005

644-8956

Washington County Community Action (WCCAO) proudly recommends Eugene (Gene) Hermelin for the Lance Mushaw Award. Gene is an outstanding volunteer who is extremely qualified to receive this prestigious award.

The purpose of WCCAO is to serve the economically disadvantaged in Washington County by providing for basic needs and promoting long term self-sufficiency. One of the ways WCCAO does this is by providing volunteer transportation services to Washington County seniors and persons with disabilities. Volunteers using agency vehicles or their own vehicle, provide transportation to medical appointments, work, school, shopping, volunteer work, etc.

Gene has volunteered for WCCAO for three years, primarily as a driver for WCCAO's Volunteer Transportation Program. However, he also serves or has served in several other volunteer positions. They are as follows:

1. Transportation Program Driver - Gene drives the agency vehicles which includes vans with wheelchair lifts as well as his own car if an emergency arises with one of our clients. He often begins his day at 7 AM in the morning and doesn't finish until after 5 PM. He operates the vehicles safely, takes all the required training and demonstrates respect for each client.
2. Driver Trainer - Gene trains all new Transportation Program drivers on the use of the vans and wheelchair lifts. He recommends to the Program Coordinator when a driver is ready to "go on the road."



A United Way Agency

"People Helping People"

3. Van Maintenance Specialist - Gene has set up a maintenance schedule for the Transportation Program vehicles, arranges with our maintenance garage for each vehicle to be serviced or repaired. In addition he supervises a community corrections crew while they wash and clean the vehicles on a bi-monthly basis. He is in the process of setting up similar maintenance schedules for the other WCCAO programs.
4. Handyman/mover - Gene helps the agency with general handyman jobs i.e. repairing door hinges, moving office furniture. When the agency received donated furniture, Gene drove to Salem, picked it up, and delivered it to us. He also helped us move when the agency moved into new office quarters.

Gene brings to each of the above jobs a sense of responsibility and a deep commitment to work and to the people he serves whether it is the office staff or our clients. Gene is a very special person. All of us who work with Gene urge you to honor him by awarding him the Lance Mushaw Award.

Sincerely,



Jerralynn Ness
Executive Director

Organizations:

Washington County Community Action	1987-on	Driver, Vehicle Maintenance, moving offices, miscellaneous activities
American Red Cross	apx. 1970-on	Blood donator
Washington County Head Start	1987-on	Driver
Washington County Food Bank	1987-on	Delivered food
Forest Grove Senior Center	1987-on	Delivered Meals-on-Wheels; Escort on trips to Reno, Nevada
Gleaners Association	1987-on	Helped pick and deliver food
Miscellaneous Community Service		Helped friends, neighbors, family, and senior citizen cars; cut and delivered wood for family and friends; transported people to church.
Retired Senior Volunteer Program	1987-on	Driver

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God has laid you see.
I took His hand when I heard his call
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day to laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way; I found peace at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void, then fill it with Remembered joys.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss, Oh yes these things I'll miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow, I wish you the sunshine of
tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much, good friends, good times and the
loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief – Don't lengthen it now with
undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and peace to thee, God wanted me now,
He set me free.