



## Preston Pettus

March 11, 1925 - July 27, 2009

Preston Pettus, 84, passed away peacefully at his home in Prescott, Ariz., on July 27, 2009, after a short illness. Preston was born in Globe, Ariz., on March 11, 1925, to Willa Mae Saunders and Willie Rice Pettus. Preston graduated from Phoenix Union High School. He attended Phoenix College and was a veteran of the Coast Guard during WWII. He joined the Phoenix Police Department in 1946 and retired 22 years later as a sergeant. He then joined the Arizona State Department of Corrections serving Yavapai County as a parole officer, retiring 25 years later. Preston was a lifelong member of FOP II. He is survived by his child bride of 60 years, Helen (Trumpower) Pettus. Survivors also include brother John of Oregon; son Mark of Phoenix; daughter Sherri James of Prescott; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren with one on the way; and many loving nieces, nephews and cousins.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Preston Pettus*

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January 30, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *We were aroused Monday morning by the emergency vehicles and have been concerned. We are sorry for your loss. I enjoyed chatting with Preston as I walked by when he would be out by the road doing some yard chores.*

*Max & Lucy Fields*

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**Max Fields** - July 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *To my friend "P.P."  
You will be greatly missed by one and all. I am thankful your mentoring me during my days when we were with the Phoenix Police Dept.*

*Rest in peace my friend.*

*Ed Kiyler #435 Phx.P.D. retired.*

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**Ed Kiyler** - July 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *Helen,  
I just want you to know you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Preston was always one of my favorite customers and it was people like him that made my day in the restaurant business. I always loved seeing you two come in. I know he'll be missed. Take care.  
love,  
Kathy Murphy-REilly*

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**Kathy Murphy-Reilly** - July 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ *I first met Preston in the summer of 1968 when he was one of only 4 Adult Parole Officers in the state of Arizona. He worked with Senior P.O. Bill Brown in a little house on West Washington, where the Wesley Bolin Park is now located. This was prior to the creation of the Department of Corrections, and while Allen Cook, it's first Director, was still a "Special Advisor on Corrections to Gov. Jack Williams"  
I had the pleasure through subsequent years of knowing, and to a limited extent working with, Preston. I always found him to be a gentlemen and extemely pleasant to associate with.  
Early on I had the opportunity to visit him and his family in Prescott, and he was a most gracious host.  
My sympathies are with his lovely family, and many friends.*

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**Les Jennings** - July 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ Although we left Prescott ten years ago, we never forgot your smile and patience as you dealt with the youth. We also appreciate your advise and humor in dealing with raising our children. May God Bless your family.

*Sam & Bunny Anderson*

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**Sam & Bunny Anderson** - July 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

NH

“ I had the pleasure of working with Preston for many years, although not often directly. He was one of the first parole officers I met in the early 70's. Although I was not in parole at the time, I always heard wonderful comments and stories about him and became quickly aware that everybody knew him, liked him and respected him greatly. Over the years I would run in to him around the department and was struck by his graceful attitude, good sense of fun and positive attitude. Once I became an administrator in Community Corrections I was able to hear about him more regularly. He was a highly valued employee and friend to all.

Preston's perspective was balanced, honest and fair. What you saw, was what you got. He was the real deal. He had passion for his family, work and life itself. He was committed to protecting the public and the rights of those under his charge. Preston's calm, "down home" charm put staff, the public and parolees at ease. Parolees knew he would treat them fairly and with respect while working to help them get on their feet and live a proper life. They also knew he meant business and would not put up with serious violations. He was a good judge of character and could read people well, which was one of his greatest assets.

Preston's priorities were always in order. Any time I knew he was involved in a case, I felt confident that the case had been handled appropriately and with reason and compassion. He was capable enough to work with the full range of criminals-- young and old, male and female, light weight criminal histories to very dangerous. He was a very fine parole officer.

Preston's face would light up and his eyes would sparkle whenever he spoke about his family. He loved them deeply and was proud of each family member. By the way, he considered many of his friends to be family. I will remember his kind manner, his smiling face, intense knowing eyes and chuckle when he introduced himself... Preston Pettus, Prescott parole. People always felt better when he was around. The world was a better place because of him. My prayers are with the family.

**Nancy Hughes** - July 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *I will always miss you and love you and our special calls on Wednesday when Aunt Helen was getting her hair done...I love you a million times and more.  
I will do as you asked and take care of your Child Bride.  
Stephanie, the flower girl*

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**Stephanie Siebert** - July 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM