

## Norris Leroy Helstrom



Born in Spokane, Washington on Feb. 3, 1914  
Departed on Oct. 14, 2006 and resided in Coeur d'Alene, ID  
Funeral Service: [Wednesday Oct. 18, 2006](#)  
Burial: Forest Cemetery

Norris Leroy Helstrom, age 92, of Coeur d'Alene died October 14, 2006 at Life Care Center of Coeur d'Alene. He was born February 3, 1914 at Deaconess Hospital in Spokane, WA to Carl Axtel and Anna Lydia (Johnson) Helstrom. He was their firstborn child who lived in Pasadena Park, WA. From the age of 12, Norris had the desire to become a preacher. He graduated from West Valley High School in Millwood, WA. Shortly after graduating, he met and fell in love with Evalyn Pearl Bowman. They were married on September 9, 1934. He moved his young family to Nampa, ID to attend Northwest Nazarene College. Upon graduating, the family moved to Kansas City, MO for Norris to attend Nazarene Theological Seminary and fulfill his

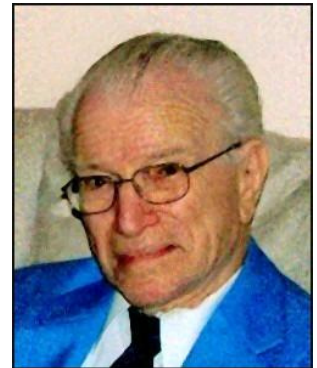
heart's desire to preach. He also preached at numerous small churches in the area. For health reasons, the family returned to Pasadena Park (Spokane), WA.

Norris formed Helstorm Builders and began building custom homes in Spokane Valley and later in Coeur d'Alene. One of the highlights in his building career was being asked to be the building supervisor of the Spokane Valley Church of the Nazarene. In 1963 he moved his family to Hayden Lake and then to Coeur d'Alene. He was the developer and builder of the first portion of Pinegrove Park. When asked how many houses he built, he replied, "so many I lost count". Woven into the same time frame, he became a tour host for Ron Bair Travel, hosting many tours around the world.

Norris had a love for music. He sang and directed choirs, led the song service and played the trombone. He loved boating, water skiing, traveling and reading. His favorite pastime was to talk about his Lord and then explain John 3:16 about salvation. He was a founding member of North Idaho Building Contractors, Gideons, and a member of the Coeur d'Alene Church of the Nazarene.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Evalyn Helstrom, his parents, 2 brothers and a sister. He is survived by his sons and daughters-in-law, Robert and Yvonne Helstrom of Olympia, WA and Herbert and Jeanne Helstrom of Coeur d'Alene; a daughter and son-in-law, Betty and Marvin Towner of Coeur d'Alene; sisters, Evelyn Film and Dorothy Berg of the Seattle area; 8 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandson.

Norris married LaNell (Warren) Helstrom in 1999 and they continued to make Coeur d'Alene their home. He leaves behind his second wife, LaNell who has lovingly taken care of him for 7 years, and her children; a son, 3 daughters and their families.



He has been a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and friend, who walked his talk about his Lord, along with his generous spirit he has always shown to those in need. His family honors him for the Christian heritage he has given us and he will remain in our hearts forever, until we join him again.

Visitation will be Tuesday, October 17th from 3-8 P.M. at the Yates Funeral Home, Coeur d'Alene Chapel. The funeral service will be 11:00 A.M. Wednesday, October 18, 2006 at the Coeur d'Alene Church of the Nazarene. Burial will follow at Forest Cemetery. The family prefers memorials to Gideons International, 1010 E. Sherman Ave., Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814.