

David Wellington



The Wellington family, left to right: Brent Wellington, his wife Dena who is holding Easton. Tyson Wellington, his wife Liz who is holding Carter. Brady Wellington, David Wellington who is holding Cohen and David's wife Teresa.

After graduation from Rainier High School, I attended Lower Columbia College for a couple of terms in Computer Science. At that time computers consisted mainly of stacks of punch cards with rooms full of machines and I decided that it was not for me.

I then decided to try working at the local saw mill where I found out what real work was all about. After working there for 3 or 4 months, I went to work for Crown Zellerbach at Wauna where I worked for about 3 years.

During this time, I also met and started dating my future wife Teresa Maki. In 1971 I decided to return to school at OTI in Klamath Falls to study Mechanical Drafting. After a couple of terms, due to a shortage of funds and finding that this was not what I wanted, I returned home and started work at Longview Fibre. I worked at Fibre for 3 years, most of the time in the shipping department and always searching for that job that sparked my interest and passion. That is when I discovered the Fire Service. On November 23, 1973, Teresa and I were married.

By circumstances that involves a long story, I became interested in the Fire Service and decided to join Rainier's volunteer fire department to see if it was the thing for me long term. I soon realized that the fire service was the place for me and while a volunteer, I began pursuing

full time employment with a fire department. After several years of testing I was hired by Hillsboro Fire Department in September of 1977 and after completing my probationary employment period, Teresa and I moved to Hillsboro in March of 1978.

By this time Teresa was employed by PGE as a Laboratory Technician and I was working for Hillsboro Fire Department as a Firefighter. With things going so smoothly we decided that we needed that little something to spice things up. That “little something” came along on December 29th, 1980 and we named him Brent David Wellington. A year later on January 10, 1982, our second “little something” came along and we named him Tyson Andrew Wellington.

In 1980 I was promoted to Lieutenant and in 1984, to Captain. In 1987 under a contract agreement with Washington County Fire District #2 and The City of Hillsboro Fire Department, I was promoted to Battalion Chief where I remained for the next 16 years. During this time, I also spent a lot of time coaching baseball and football at various levels for my two sons.

I retired from Hillsboro January 1, 2003 and we moved to Sisters in March of that year. I joined the volunteers at Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire District as a Captain and served as Volunteer Coordinator and a company officer until the current time. I also started a class in Firefighting and EMS at Sisters High School which has run for 6 years.

We also have 2 daughters-in-law, Dena and Liz, and 4 grandsons Brady, Carter, Cohen, and Easton.