



# **Jerry M. Swain**

AUG 25, 1936 - AUG 15, 2015



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## **Jerry M. Swain**

AUG 25, 1936 - AUG 15, 2015

**J**erry M Swain, 78, of Goodyear Arizona passed away on August 15, 2015. Jerry was born August 25, 1936 in Walla Walla, Washington.

Jerry was preceded in death by his loving wife Janice of 46 years in 2002, and his brother Lloyd in April 2015.

Jerry spent most of his formative years in Richland, Washington. He was confirmed and baptized in the Central United Protestant Church, and graduated from high school as a “Richland Bomber.”

Jerry earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Washington State University in Pullman while a member of the USAF Reserve Officer Training Corps program. Through the years Jerry also took the time to earn two different masters degrees, one in engineering and the second a MBA in Finance.

Jerry married Janice Benham, his high school sweetheart, while in college, and shortly thereafter earned his Air Force pilot wings in Texas. Jerry flew air refueling aircraft, the KC-97 and KC-135A, for the USAF, performing air refueling around the world. This included numerous combat missions based out of Thailand in support of the Vietnam War. He left active duty in 1966 but remained in the United States Air Force Reserves working as the Officer in Charge of the Command Post at McChord AFB. Jerry retired from Air Force Reserves as a Lieutenant Colonel with over 20 years of service.

While still in the Air Force Reserves, Jerry culminated his career with the Boeing Airplane Company as Chief Test Pilot. He flew training, engineering test, and delivery flights, accruing an impressive 10,845 hours of flight time. In his 35 years at Boeing he piloted the majority of the different makes and models of Boeing aircraft including but not limited to the 707, 720, 727, 737, 747, 757, 767, 777, and various military aircraft such as the E-3A AWACS, KC-135, E-6, and T-43. He



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also spent over two years in Toronto, Canada as the Director of Operations for the de Havilland Corporation (at that time a subsidiary of Boeing) flying the Dash-7 and Dash-8 aircraft.

Jerry was a loving husband, father, brother, and friend. He enjoyed the pursuit of foreign languages, hunting, singing in the choir, bocce ball tournaments, playing guitar and spending time with his four children - Deborah, David, Donna and Daniel. He is survived by his four children, nine grandchildren (Chrissa, Teresa, Melissa, Alex, LaRayne, Renae, Robert, Jessica, Callie and Jordan), and twelve great grandchildren. Jerry is also survived by his sister Linda.

Two services will be held: September 1, 2015, at 10am at the Pebble creek ballroom in Goodyear, Arizona (16262 W Clubhouse Drive), and September 21, 2015, at 11am at the Aspen Chapel on the grounds of Mountain View Cemetery in Lakewood, Washington (4100 Steilacoom Blvd SW).

In lieu of flowers, donations to the MS Society would be greatly appreciated.

<http://www.nationalmssociety.org/Donate>

Please leave condolences and memories to the tribute wall.

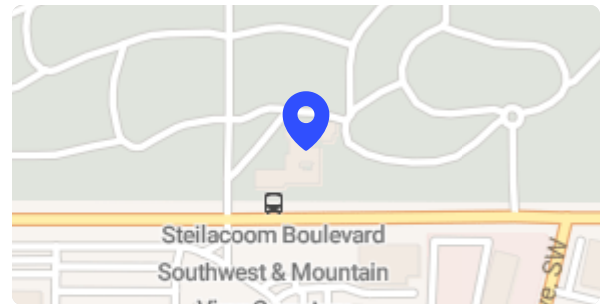


### Chapel Service

**Monday**, September 21, 2015

11:00 AM PT

**Mountain View Aspen Chapel**  
4100 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood WA 98499

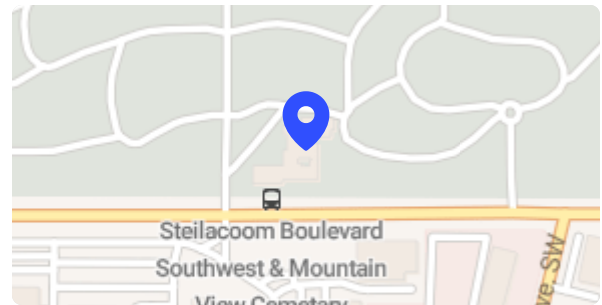


### Interment

**Monday**, September 21, 2015

12:30 PM PT

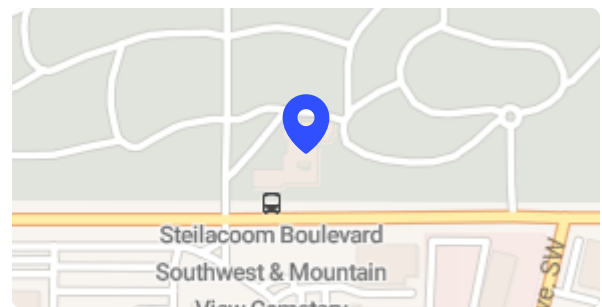
**Mountain View Memorial Park**  
4100 Steilacoom Blvd. SW, Lakewood WA 98499



### Cemetery Details

**Mountain View Memorial Park**  
4100 Steilacoom Blvd. SW, Lakewood WA 98499

**(253) 948-9895**





# Tribute Wall

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**Lawrence Holliday** posted:

"While we are waiting, let's do GOTCHA." "Here's Snoopy over France." "Will this do an over the shoulder VOR capture?" The words "Priceless" and "Genuine" come to mind via the many memories of test flights with Jerry. The Palouse Goose has new wings -- Sing well, Jerry, I'll be listening!Lawrence HollidayDes Moines, Wa.

May 12 at 5:10 PM



**George Kegebein** posted:

Jerry has been on my mind a number of times recently. I just now learned of his passing. He and I spent so many good and adventurous times together traveling and flying around the world. He was a wonderful friend and fellow aviator!No more alligators Jerry, just Angels. Fly Safe!George KegebeinGog Harbor , Wa.

November 21 at 8:00 AM



**Jan Lester** posted:

We send our condolences to all of Jerry's family, but especially to my much loved son-in-law Dan.  
Jan & Bob Lester

September 21 at 3:26 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket to the Swain family.



September 12 at 11:05 AM



**Donna** posted:

Dad,I miss you so much!! Life just isn't going to be the same with you gone!! I know you are safe and with Mom now and all of our other family members. That brings peace to my heart. God Bless you for giving me a lifetime of memories Dad.Love you with all my heart!!Donna XXXXOOOO

September 11 at 10:14 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Jerry by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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