

# Richard Leroy Koval

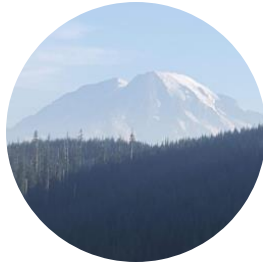
AUG 6, 1931 - MAY 22, 2023



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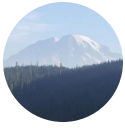


# Richard Leroy Koval

AUG 6, 1931 - MAY 22, 2023

**R**ichard Koval, 92, passed away on May 22, 2023 in Tacoma, Washington. He was the second son born to John and Mary Koval on August 6, 1931. His older brother, Johnny, preceded him by two years. Richard was born and raised in Midland, Washington, just outside of Tacoma. His grandparents immigrated from Czechoslovakia and homesteaded the area the family eventually built upon. Richard, never married, did remain in his original home until his death. In the early years, Richard and Johnny helped their parents with chores around the farm. Richard was proud of his “chicken” duties and always felt second to his “bully” brother who seemed to be his father’s favorite. Dad was firm, but did allow play time, as long as the chores were completed timely. Playing baseball in the neighborhood was their joy, but “best we be home when Dad wants us”. Mother, Mary, on the other hand, was adored by Richard. He spoke of her often, with fond memories of her kitchen prowess, and great family meals. Richard did well in school and went on to graduate from Puyallup High School. He was most proud of his agriculture classes and often spoke of the many projects he had undertaken. Their Catholic church was a foundation for the family and for Richard until his passing.

After high school, Richard worked odd jobs for approximately two years. He, then, enlisted in the Air Force, where he was assigned to photography school. He spoke of this assignment as his lucky break. Soon after, he was sent to France and eventually on to Germany where he completed his three year military commitment. Back on U.S. soil, and with an education in photography, Richard was hired by the Boeing Aircraft Company as an aerospace photographer. After forty plus years with the company, and numerous travel duties abroad, Richard retired. His devotion to the company and his job earned him several awards. Noteworthy, is the fact that throughout his career, he was never laid off once.



## Obituary

**Richard Leroy Koval**

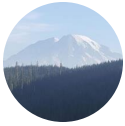
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Back to the family home, Richard began his well deserved retirement. Besides a good dinner out with friends, Richard enjoyed being a sports fan. Whether it be his twenty year season tickets for Husky football, or a game on television, he enjoyed them all. He became quite the student of all sports, and looked with great anticipation to the next game. He remained active in his retirement years and always had a twinkle in his eye, a good story, and a laugh to share. His love for life and others will always be cherished.


Richard was preceded in death by his parents, John and Mary, brother Johnny, niece Carla, and special friend Julie Papineau. He is survived by his cousin Don Koval, dearest neighbors Byron, Glenda, and Shawn Reiff, as well as close friends, Mike and Denise Blangy, and Bruce and Kris Nichols.


A memorial service will be held at St. John's of the Woods Catholic Church, (Midland) on June 30, 2023 at 12 pm. Graveside service to follow at Calvary cemetery (Tacoma).



## Memorial Service


 **Friday**, June 30, 2023

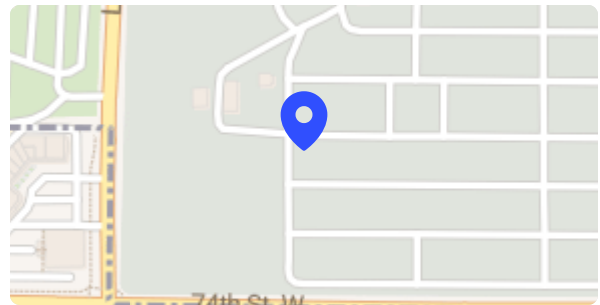
 12:00 PM PT

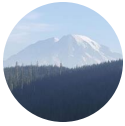
 **St. John of the Woods Catholic Church**  
9903 24th Ave E, Tacoma WA 98445



## Cemetery Details

 **Calvary Cemetery**  
5212 70th St W, Tacoma WA 98467





## Tribute Wall

**Richard Leroy Koval**

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**Patrick (Paddy) Johnson** posted:

Richard Leroy Koval! What a character you were!! My first encounter with Richard was for a Boeing ID photo when I first hired into Boeing Flight Test Photo group in 1974. One of the other Flight Test photogs was doing my ID photo. I sensed the presence of some one behind me. Turning I see Richard ! He smiled and put his chin on my shoulder. The other photog snapped a quick frame!! I still have that image!! One situation stands out in my mind. Boeing did alot of test flights out of Edwards Air Force Base, CA. Most of the time we were able to park our test A/Ps at the Edwards Transient Hanger. At times that hanger was busy. This situation was one of those times. We had to operate out of Lockheed Palmdale, Ca. Normal operations would have Lockheed Ground Tower post to Security that there would be Boeing ground support personnel positioned along side of the runway. This particular morning Lockheed Ground did not post. All Security knew was there was two unidentified vehicles alongside their runway. Richard and I had our mopic cameras set up along side the main runway about 100 yds from each other. I observed several Security vehicles drive up with lights flashing, to where Richard was setup. Security exited their vehicles with firearms drawn and had My friend spread eagle on the hood of his car. I immediately call Lockheed Ground. They in turn called off the mounties. I had never seen Richard so shook up. He usually was pretty mild tempered! A good friend, always enjoyed working with him !!

June 28 at 9:41 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

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



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