



# **Jerry Fredrick Minaker**

DEC 8, 1946 - AUG 31, 2025



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6



# **Jerry Fredrick Minaker**

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**J**erry Fredrick Minaker, lovingly known as “JerBear,” passed away peacefully at home in Lakewood, WA, on August 31, 2025, at the age of 78, with his devoted wife Patty and family by his side.

Born December 8, 1946, to Helen and Willard Minaker (both predeceased), Jerry proudly served in the U.S. Air Defense Command at Ft. Bliss, Texas, before beginning a nearly three-decade career in public service with the State of Washington.

Starting in 1972 at Western State Hospital, Jerry rose through the ranks to become Mental Health Program Coordinator for the Division of Prisons by 1984. He later served as Superintendent at Larch Correction Center, Coyote Ridge, and Naselle Youth Camp, and as Associate Superintendent at McNeil Island. His leadership helped shape the state’s correctional and juvenile rehabilitation systems, culminating in his role as Institutions Director for the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration from 1997 to 2001.

Following his state service, Jerry worked at Pierce County Alliance as a Drug and Alcohol Program Manager until his retirement. He held a Master’s degree in Psychology (magna cum laude) from Pacific Lutheran University—reflecting his lifelong dedication to understanding and helping others.

Jerry’s greatest joy was his family. He is survived by his wife Patty; his children — Kateri Candee, Jeremy Smith, Ashley Minaker-Haydon, and Justin Minaker; his step-children, William Heiner and Richard Heiner; and several cherished grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. He is also survived by his siblings Kristine Minaker-Johnson and Gary Minaker. He adored his dogs BooBoo, Foxy, Credit, and Cash - who brought him great joy.

A lover of classic cars, playing guitar, oysters, playing pool, and his nightly tradition of watching Jeopardy! Jerry will be remembered for his sharp wit, strong leadership, and deep compassion.



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He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew him.

A graveside service will be held on November 6th at 1:30pm at Mountain View Cemetery (Mountain View Funeral Home & Cemetery, 4100 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Tacoma, WA 98499). Following the service, friends and family are invited to a no host (pay for your own meal) gathering at Harvest Buffet, 3121 S 38th St, Tacoma, WA 98409.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Dementia Society of America.



## Events


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### Graveside

 **Thursday**, November 6, 2025

 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM PT

 **Mountain View Funeral Home & Memorial Park**  
4100 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood WA 98499



## Tribute Wall

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**Laura Mullen** lit a candle in honor of Jerry.

The LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. Celebrate a life well lived. Cherish the memories forever. Laura Minaker Mullen

December 16 at 1:55 PM





# Memories only last if you share them

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



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