



## Dick Swinnerton

February 26, 1935 - July 27, 2019

John Richard Swinnerton, "Dick" age 84, of Bend, died peacefully at home on July 27th with his wife of 59 years by his side.

Dick was born on February 26, 1935 in Zanesville, Ohio, and grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland.

After graduating from the University of Maryland in 1959 with a degree in civil engineering, he married Mary Anna Pritchett. The newlyweds immediately headed west to Prineville, Oregon, to the snow-capped mountains where Dick had spent his college summers working with the US Forest Service. He loved working in the woods and his career took the family to Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin, and Virginia. In 1975 he became part of the topographic mapping program of the US Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia and from 1977-1994 Dick led the Western Mapping Center of the US Geological Survey in Menlo Park, California.

With a love of the natural world, he enjoyed hiking, snowshoeing, photography, and bicycling. Celebrating retirement in 1994, Dick and two friends enjoyed the adventure of a lifetime as they rode bicycles from Astoria, Oregon to Boston (75 days and 3500 miles). His wife Mary Anna facilitated the dream trip as she drove the support van across the country. The experience inspired him to recount the ride and historical significance of

locations along the route in his book, "We Passed This Way". After finishing the book, Dick and Mary Anna drove the bike route in reverse from Massachusetts to Oregon, reconnecting with friends they made along the way and sharing their journey at local book signings. In 1999, the couple returned to central Oregon where their married life had begun.

Dick volunteered for 12 years at the High Desert Museum leading tours and lecturing about Lewis & Clark, the fur trade, and the Oregon Trail. He especially enjoyed playing Jacob McCully in living history exhibits, where he incorporated stories from his research and family history.

Dick was an active member of First Presbyterian Church where he served in a variety of ways. Although Parkinsons disease slowed his body and mind, Dicks kind and loving spirit was ever present. His smile and kind eyes warmed hearts and connected people. Dicks children share his love for the great outdoors and their families enjoyed regular visits to Bend. The week before his death, a doctor asked where his favorite place to live was, and Dick answered without hesitation, "Bend." He loved this place, his family, and his church.

Dick is survived by his wife Mary Anna, four children Mike (Patti), Matt (Cindy), Bob, Juli Lorton (Christopher), grandchildren Shane, Katie, Andy, Mari Craddock (Patrick), Jonathan Lorton, Benjamin Lorton, great-grandchildren Eleanor Craddock, Ben Craddock, and brother, Jerry (Betty).

Funeral Home:

Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home

105 NW Irving Ave

Bend, OR

US 97701



# Tribute Wall



“ 2 files added to the album *Obituary Wall*



**Niswonger Reynolds Funeral Home & Greenwood Cemetery** - May 18, 2023 at 02:40 PM

TC

“ We had the privilege to meet Dick a few years ago. What a wonderful person, husband, and father he was. We are so blessed to know this wonderful family and have Juli as a dear friend.

**Tom and Sandy Chung** - August 14, 2019 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ I didn't have the pleasure to meet Dick or his wife Mary Anna, but I know his son Matt and consider him to be an exceptionally kind and intelligent, thoughtful person whom I admire greatly. You did fine work, Dick and Mary Ann. My condolences for your family's loss. Dick's life sounds extraordinary and he sure took full advantage of the possibilities. We can all hope to aspire to such a love of life and adventurous spirit.

**Kalen Gruber** - August 14, 2019 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ We were fortunate to have known Dick, he was kind, smart and we considered him our friend. Fifty nine years together is so special, Mary Anna. You, your family and Elizabeth have our condolence.

**Dennis and Janice Loraine Dorsett** - August 14, 2019 at 12:00 AM

FO

“ *Dick Swinnerton*

-----  
**Funeral Home Owner** - August 07, 2019 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *A great man. So thankful for the pleasure of knowing him and his family. Love and hugs to you all. He will be missed.*

-----  
**Kristie Meacham** - August 02, 2019 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ *A wonderful man has joined his Heavenly Father. Praying for all of his family.*

-----  
**Susan Shuck & Steve Knapp** - August 02, 2019 at 12:00 AM

NP

“ *He blessed so many lives...to the whole Swinnerton family, you are in my prayers.*

-----  
**Nancy Peterson** - August 02, 2019 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *Mary Anna, so sorry for your loss. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers. Much love, Sally (Fretwell)and Benjie Smith,Anderson,SC*

-----  
**Sally Smith** - August 02, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ *He was a great man and touched all who knew him. May God's grace a mercy accompany the family during this difficult time.*

-----  
**Judy and Les Alford** - August 02, 2019 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ *When visiting family in Bend and their church we had brief visits w Mary Anna and Dick. It took only a moment to be touched by their love together and of family and their trust in God and Lord Jesus Christ. We will remember those visits as treasures!* ❤️

---

**Mary Ann/Bruce Warner** - August 02, 2019 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ *We are blessed to have known Dick. His generous heart and presence inspired us and warmed our hearts. We give thanks for him and for his peaceful transition to more life.*

---

**Lorraine & David Stuart** - August 02, 2019 at 12:00 AM