



Donald Lloyd Swisher

March 31, 1930 - March 11, 2019

Donald Lloyd Swisher (88), was born March 31st, 1930, in Post Falls, Idaho to his parents Elmer Baily Swisher and Hallie Elizabeth (Ede) Swisher. Don met his wife Carolyn June (Peer) Swisher in Seattle, Washington and they were married August 7, 1953. They were true inseparable sweethearts and enjoyed a wonderful life, a great family, lifelong friends and 65 happy years of marriage. Don and Carolyn had three loving sons: Fred, Bob, and Dave and were blessed to add three daughters-in-law: Sarah, Janet and Kelly, plus eight wonderful grandchildren: Autumn, Jasmine, Ben, Michael, Amadeus, Everest, Carly, Brody and one great grandchild. Don is also survived by his sister Shirley (Hamilton) Warner. Don lost his own father at age 9 and had to shoulder responsibility early on. He began his career picking apples and corn as a 10-year-old in the Ellensburg Washington area and purchased his own car by age 12. He went on to the Army Air Force and then aced his test and was selected to transfer directly to the U.S. Military Academy (West Point). In the early 1950s, he moved to Seattle where he met Carolyn and went to work for the Boeing Company. Within a few years he was promoted to Division Manager and then finally to the Director of Finance, where he was instrumental in making many key decisions that helped shape the company. After Boeing, in 1964, Don moved the family to Laguna Beach, California and started a company called Business Express, which was a commercial delivery service in Los Angeles with a fleet of vans (prior to Fed Ex). Then in 1968, they decided to move back to Seattle, but on the way stopped in the little town

of Bend and loved it. They stayed for a week and decided that Bend was the perfect place to live and raise a family. Don worked as V.P. of Sales/Marketing at Sunriver where he was a big part of shaping the early days of Sunriver. He had a long career in commercial real estate and development in the Bend area and was part of the community, serving on the Bend school board to approve the new Mt View High School and Cascade Middle School. Don was one of a kind and just had a presence about him, he was considered by many as a force of nature. He was extremely tough but was good to people and loved his family and friends. Some have said he would have made a fine general as every decision he made just seemed like the best way. He had an incredible mind and had memorized every nautical chart from the San Juan Islands in Puget sound up to Alaska. We all enjoyed his knowledge about everything, just ask him about how boat battery charging systems worked or how to rewire a 12-volt system (the right way). The Sunday times crossword was a breeze for him and he remembered every book he read, most every conversation, statistic, quote and person he met. Don and Carolyn enjoyed frequent outings to the Westside Starbucks or to Cheerleaders Grill and he could tell you the name and background of everyone who worked there and they genuinely loved seeing everyone at their favorite spots around town. Don and Carolyns passion were their beloved boats "Porpoise" and then "Walrus" where they spent nearly 36 years boating and exploring some 80,000 nautical miles of Washington, Canada and Alaska coastlines, inlets and islands. Don was a licensed Coast Guard Captain and he and Carolyn spent time cruising, seeing bears, orcas and eagles, catching salmon, eating crab and oysters and smiling with the friends that boated with them or that they met along the way. They could cruise into a remote fishing village and have a circle of friends laughing and telling stories in record time. Carolyn passed on January 8, 2019, and two months later Don followed his sweetheart on March 11th. We know he is now reunited with the love of his life and they are smiling down on all of us. Don could always pull out a quote for any occasion and this time we can share one from him. Only a week before he passed, he said "Our family

has been so fortunate, we have such a wonderful family and have had a great life, we are just so lucky". We are sad to lose such wonderful parents, but they were a "package deal" and we are comforted knowing they are together. They lived a full life with a loving family, wonderful friends, and had volumes of great stories of all the adventures one could ever hope for. We love you Mom and Dad, may you both rest in peace and be together forever. The family would like to thank everyone for all the loving support, prayers and condolences. A Memorial for both Don and Carolyn is being planned for Saturday, May 11th at the Bend Riverhouse at 2 pm Carolyns favorite group was PEO (along with her Knitters group) and both Don and Carolyn expressed that they wanted to support the PEO foundation. PEO has set up a scholarship in Carolyns name, so we ask that in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: PEO Foundation, (RE; Carolyn Swisher Scholarship Fund), Care of Anne Chrisman 1069 NW Milton Ct., Bend, Oregon 97703

Funeral Home:

Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home

105 NW Irving Ave

Bend, OR

US 97701

Tribute Wall

CS

“ Cheryl L Service lit a candle in memory of Donald Lloyd Swisher



cheryl l service - February 14, 2025 at 11:59 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Obituary Wall



Niswonger Reynolds Funeral Home & Greenwood Cemetery - May 18, 2023 at 02:39 PM

SW

“ I'm sorry,y finger hit the wrong key and I didn't finish what I was going to say. My brother moored the boat in Anacortes, Washington. When he first bought the Walrus he took everything apart and started completely fresh to his acceptance. Both he and his wife loved their summer boating experiences. They took their cat until he passed, and then their dog on their adventures. I'm so sorry that your father didn't get the chance to enjoy the boat as he had hoped. I give you my condolences.

Shirley Warner - January 21, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Thank you for your tribute to my brother, Don Swisher. He loved his boat,, the Walrus, and it sounds as if your dad bought the boat from him

Shirley Warner - January 21, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ My brother, Don Swisher, was idolized by his little sister . I loved him with all my heart, and thought the stardust have been put in the sky by him. He was so loving and kind to me when I was a child, under 5, and so patient. He was the same, for the rest of his life. I miss him terribly Shirley Warner

Shirley Warner - January 21, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Glenn, I just read your tribute and want to thank you for being his very good friend. I remember you vividly coming to the house in Ellensburg and how accepting and kind you were to me. I had wanted to talk to you after their memorial, but I couldn't find you. Thank you for giving such a loving tribute to my brother, Glenn

Shirley Warner - January 21, 2022 at 12:00 AM

FO

“ Donald Lloyd Swisher

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

TL

“ My father passed away in October of 2016. I believe he may have bought Donald and Carolyn's "Walrus". He had just purchased it and was making it to his liking when he was diagnosed with cancer. I am pretty good at internet searches :) www.boatdb.net states Donald L Swisher was the previous owner. Sadly, this is what I found when I Googled Donald's name. My condolences to your family for your loses even if this is not the right family, but I believe it may be. I am almost certain of it. I have a picture of my Dad sitting in the boat that matches to a tee the image shown here. My father LOVED this boat. It was his dream retirement boat. I believe he only was able to take it out of his boathouse less times than he could count the fingers on one hand. I would love to hear from a member of this family. I would love to hear a little bit more history. :)

Thomas Laird - July 17, 2019 at 12:00 AM

GE

“ Donald Lloyd Swisher was a life-long friend. During his school years he was known as Lloyd. In later years he went by Don. His mother and mine were friends. We went to high school together and participated in the same sports . I bought a 1936 Ford coupe with a 1946 Mercury motor that he had rebuilt and drove it for 4 or 5 years. I helped Lloyd study for his West Point Exam, which he passed. Life took us in other directions, but after retirement, my wife and I decided to settle in Bend, where Lloyd and his wife Carolyn and family had previously settled. It was Carolyn who showed us around to possible homes to buy and helped us find the one we purchased. We shared a love of boats and when I purchased one, he provided a radio which was quickly installed. We did not have the opportunity to explore the inland passage to Alaska as Lloyd and Carolyn did in their beloved boat, Walrus, but did enjoy the tales of his and Carolyn's times there. When my wife passed away, Lloyd was at my door almost immediately. We visited and had lunch together fairly often. One is seldom blessed with as stolid a friend as Lloyd. I miss him greatly, I am consoled with the understanding that he and Carolyn are again happily together. I will always cherish their memories.

Glenn Edmison - May 04, 2019 at 12:00 AM

GE

“ It was with much grief that I learned of Don's passing. He has been a lifelong friend since were school mates together at Ellensburg HS. I helped him study for his entry exams for the US Military Academy. He sold me the 36 Ford coupe with the 46 Mercury motor that he had rebuilt. I drove it for several years. His wife, Carolyn sold us our home in Bend. We had lunch together just a few weeks past. He showed me his motor home in which he and Carolyn traveled after they no longer had their well-loved boat, Walrus. I will miss you dear friend. Sail with the Angles.

Glenn Edmison - April 03, 2019 at 12:00 AM