



Jerald (Jerry) D. Gardner

May 27, 1931 - May 22, 2016

Bend, Oregon Jerald (Jerry) D. Gardner went Home to our Lord on Sunday, May 22, 2016. He passed away peacefully after a lengthy illness, surrounded by his loving family and his devoted wife, Linda, of 54 years. Jerry was born to Price and Rowena Gardner on May 27, 1931 in Hamilton, Texas. He was raised on a small farm and attended elementary school at the one room Blue Ridge School House. He graduated from Hamilton High School where he was active in all sports. He attended Tarleton State University in Texas. During the Korean War Jerry enlisted in the Navy and served aboard the USS St Paul, spending 3 of his 4 years abroad in Japan. He was in special forces where he was a pitcher for the Navy Baseball Team. His love of baseball continued throughout his life, and he was drafted to play ball for the Los Angeles Dodgers and then played for the Los Angeles City League. After being honorably discharged from the Navy Jerry became employed by North American Rockwell in Canoga Park, CA where he was involved in testing rocket engines for early space exploration and the Apollo II Manned Lunar Mission. It was in Canoga Park where he met his future wife, Linda Geer, and they were married in 1962 at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. In 1969 they moved to Bend, Oregon to raise their family, making the move along with their dearest friends to this day, Fred and Judy Newton. Jerry and Linda owned service stations in Sisters, OR and Bend, OR until they retired in 1999. Jerry was a member of the Bend Golf Country Club for many years, and was an avid golfer, hunter and fisherman. Many fun stories have been told by

his close hunting and camping friends. He was referred to as "Camp Counselor" for the Runnymuck Camp by his camping buddies. Jerry is survived by his loving wife, Linda, two daughters and one son-in-law, Cindy (Gardner) Martino and Rod Martino, Kathy (Gardner) Hollister; one son, David Gardner; 10 grandchildren (Granddaughter, Hailey Hollister of Bend will honor her Pa through her gift of song at the Memorial Service); 3 brothers, Eugene Gardner (wife Lloydya), Ronald Gardner (wife Delores) and Dale Gardner (wife Sandy); one sister Shirley (Gardner) Massingill (husband Eugene); and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Price and Rowena Gardner, and one son, Dean Gardner. Jerry was known by all who knew him as a kind and loving soul. He will be dearly missed by all. The family would like to sincerely thank the wonderful caregivers who so lovingly cared for Jerry for the past two years. The family requests that memorials in Jerrys honor may be made to Partners In Care or Grace First Lutheran Church. A viewing will be held on May 31, 2016, from 4-6pm at Niswonger-Reynolds. The Celebration of Life will be held at Grace First Lutheran Church at NW Shevlin Park Rd, Bend, OR on June 1, 2016 at 11am.

Funeral Home:

Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home New
105 NW Irving Ave
Bend, OR
US 97701

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Obituary Wall*



Niswonger Reynolds Funeral Home & Greenwood Cemetery - May 18, 2023 at 02:26 PM

FO

“ *Jerald (Jerry) D. Gardner*

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

KH

“ *I miss you everyday my loving Dad. You were the best Dad in the world, I know that. I love you so much and will see you again in heaven.*

Kathy Gardner Hollister - March 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ Thank you for the great honor of being your little sis, Jerry. You were always kind, always there to be of support and always gave unconditional love. I remember when I was just a little girl and I used to love to sit on your soft cuddly lap. I knew I was safe and loved. Thank you for loving my beautiful sister, Linda, and for showing all of the rest of us what it means to have a loving devoted marriage never was there a greater love story than the one between you and Linda.. Your daughters and granddaughter in all their faith and gentle spirits are an extension of you. Your families cup runneth over with the loving memories we have of you.

Sunny Butler - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Linda, I am so sorry to hear about Jerry. It sounds like he is now in a better place. Stay strong and know that Jeff, Lauren and myself are thinking of you during this time.

Jeff, Tammy and Lauren Taylor - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Sorry for your loss. I read the obituary in the Bend Bulletin about Jerald being on the USS St. Paul. I served aboard the St Paul from 60-63. I am a lifetime member of the St. Paul Association. I am in contact with them frequently and wondered if you cared if I sent the obituary out of the paper to the President of the Association? If you would rather send it to the association yourself, I would be glad to give you their address. Please let me know what you would like to do. I enjoyed my 3 years on the USS St. Paul and I know this kind of information is very important to them.

Delbert Moulton Alpha Division MM2 - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ *My heart goes out to all of you. Jerry was an amazing man and a wonderful father figure to me. He was a gentle, soft spoken man. Heaven just received an angel.*

Linda Santilli Taylor - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ *Mike and I are so sorry for your loss. Mike remembers all the fun time he and Jerry had when he would service the Post Office vehicles. Our deepest sympathy to you and your family. God rest his soul and may he rest in peace.*

Michael Lunny - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM