



## Jerry Gene Lear

August 5, 1940 - March 31, 2023

The world was given a great gift the day Jerry Lear was born to Ruth and Gene Lear in The Dalles, Oregon. The family was living in Hermiston but the nearest hospital was in the Dalles and his mother's meal of watermelon precipitated the trip.

Jerry was the first child born to Ruth and Gene Lear. Having a boy to carry on the Lear name was of immense importance and carried great responsibility. Jerry took that position very seriously. Fortunately, he was given the ability to accomplish all he desired.

Jerry moved from Hermiston, to Seaside, to Redmond and finally in high school to Corvallis, when Jerry's father was promoted to be the state agricultural agent employed on the Oregon State campus. Jerry was an honor student, awarded for his alto sax talents and leadership roles. He got up early in the morning to do his paper route. Jerry always said he moved to Corvallis so he could meet his wife, Julie, a Corvallis native. Upon graduation from Corvallis High School, he entered Oregon State as a premed major.

At a young age, Jerry had admired an uncle with an MD and that influenced

his chosen path in medicine. School was easy for Jerry even though procrastination was his middle name. Summer odd jobs were varied, working for Corvallis Sand and Gravel driving black top and cement trucks, working at the cannery, washing dishes at restaurants and running the athletic department switchboard at Oregon State. At OSU, he joined the Acacia fraternity and lived mostly at home. He was accepted into many honor societies and was a member of the ROTC honor drill team. After 3 years at Oregon State, he was admitted to medical school. That summer he married the love of his life, Julie Williams Lear, whom he had dated since Junior year in high school, in Corvallis, Oregon.

At the University of Oregon Medical School (OHSU) he was a very successful student, earning many awards, He was a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society and the first ever to graduate Magna Cum Laude.

Fulfilling his desire to have the most challenging internship at a county hospital, Jerry chose Philadelphia General. Moving to Philadelphia from Portland was like going to the moon for a native Oregonian. With his first baby, Kristin, due in a month, he and Julie made the move to Philadelphia. He insisted Kristin be born in the University of Pennsylvania hospital after seeing the challenges in Philadelphia General.

After experiencing all phases of medicine, Jerry chose general and thoracic surgery for his specialty, and was chosen to train at Stanford University medical school. His second child, Mark, was born there. After 3 years of residency, he took a break from school to take care of his military obligation. He was sent to Fort Meade, Maryland in August 1969. In November Jerry received orders to serve in Vietnam and flew to Fort Sam Houston to be

trained for hazardous duty. Julie and the kids flew to Oregon to live while Jerry was in the service. Captain Jerry Lear came through Corvallis to meet his third child, Kimberlee, who was born while he was in Texas.

Jerry left on March 14th, 1970 for a year of service in Vietnam in the Mekong delta in a M.A.S.H. hospital. He met Julie in Hawaii twice for 5 days of R and R. While in Vietnam, Jerry received the Bronze Star Medal and was promoted to Major. Upon his return from Vietnam he finished his army time at The Presidio in San Francisco. Stanford medical school was happy to have Jerry return and gave him 6 months of credit for his surgery experience in Vietnam.

In 1973, with his residency finished, he and his family moved to Bend to accept a surgical position with Bend Memorial Clinic and St. Charles Hospital. At that time the Bend Memorial Clinic was on Greenwood and 4th Street and the hospital was in downtown Bend off of Franklin Street.

In 1975 Jerry was initiated into the American College of Surgeons. Jerry spent 30 fulfilling years as a surgeon in Bend before retiring. During the first 10 year of his retirement he did volunteer surgeries at Volunteers in Medicine.

In life, his leisure activities were swimming, windsurfing, scuba diving, Cycle Oregon with his son, skiing, and birding. He was very active in Trinity Episcopal Church, leading youth group trips to New Orleans and Ireland, organizing the snow removal team, involvement in Cursillo and raising money for Condega, Nicaragua. Jerry was on the board of

the family kitchen and also enjoyed volunteering with cooking and serving. All of these things served his faith and his deep commitment to help others.

Jerry was always researching and getting as much information as possible on any subject that interested him including Parkinson's disease, the illness that took his life. He was devoted and interested in the lives of his family. His highschool sweetheart and wife of 62 years, Julieann Williams Lear, his 3 children, Kristin Rosati (Mimmo), Kimberlee Churchill (Bruce) and Mark Lear and his three grandchildren, Hayley, Austin and Ike along with the additional blessings of Mimmo's children, Francesca, Marco and Massimiliano and Bruce's sons Will and Ian.

The celebration of Jerry's life will be held on April 29th at 10:00 am at the Trinity Episcopal Church of Bend with a reception following.

Memorial contributions would be appreciated to the Parkinson's Disease Research Foundation, Trinity Episcopal Church Outreach (especially K.I.D.S and the family kitchen).

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Jerry Lear



Niswonger Reynolds Funeral Home & Greenwood Cemetery - May 18, 2023 at 03:18 PM

LN

“ My two daughters are named Kristen and Kimberly because Jerry came into my room after the birth of our second daughter and suggested we name her Kimberly. We were having a hard time deciding on a name so we took his suggestion. He said we will now have daughters with the same name. His memory of naming our second daughter will last forever!

The Lears were dear friends, Julie babysitting Kristen and passing their Kristin and Kimberlee clothes on to our Kristen and Kimberly. Many wonderful gatherings and sharing Trinity Episcopal Church life together. I am forever grateful for their friendship while I lived in Bend.

I send my deepest condolence to all the Lear family on your loss. But I thank you for wonderful memories and pray for Libby Nielsen and Kristen and Kimberly too.

Libby Finnigan Nielsen - April 29, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Dearest Lear Family Remembering our beloved Jerry with a memorial that will live on for years to come. Our love and blessings, Diane and Peter Boehm

Diane and Peter - April 28, 2023 at 12:00 AM

RV

“ *Fond memories of working for Dr Lear at Bend Memorial Clinic. If he wasn't at work or home with Julie and his kids you were sure to find him heading north with windsurfing gear on his car heading to Hood River.*

*Sorry for your loss.*

*Rosie and Don Veatch*

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**Rosie Veatch** - April 27, 2023 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ *We have lost a true humanitarian. He always took the greatest care of his patients. Those of us who were fortunate enough to work & learn from him respect & acknowledge his skill, kindness & sense of humor. He was devoted to his family, his patients and his church.*

*He will be missed. Barbara Richartz Wagner*

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**Barbara Richartz Wagner** - April 16, 2023 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *Jerry Gene Lear*

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**Bend Funeral Homes** - April 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ *We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home*

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**A Memorial Tree was planted for Jerry Gene Lear** - April 13, 2023 at 12:00 AM