



## Fredrick "Dick" Jones

January 21, 1942 - March 11, 2024

Fredrick Richard "Dick" Jones died peacefully on March 11, 2024, at the age of 82. He was a true adventurer and eternal optimist.

Born on January 21, 1942, in Alhambra, California, to Joel and Nyna Radde Jones, Dick's zest for life was evident early on. As a young boy growing up on Catalina Island, he spent his days diving into the ocean for coins thrown by cruise ship passengers and riding along with the island's pilots on their trips to the mainland. He collected stamps and coins from all over the world. These experiences sparked a lifelong love of the ocean, airplanes, and adventure.

After graduating from Palm Springs High School in 1960, Dick enlisted in military service. First with the Air Force for four years and then in the Navy for over two decades as a Seabee. During this time in the Navy, his tours included Vietnam, Taiwan, Germany, the Soviet Union and Bermuda. While on active duty, he earned his BS in Industrial Psychology through the GI Bill.

He retired from the Navy with distinction and the rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer in 1984. Next, he worked briefly for the CIA and State Department. His postings included Africa, Tel Aviv, London, and Copenhagen. He later worked overseas as a contractor for the State Department. In 2015, he was elected as a Kansas State Representative for the 52nd district. Dick's entire career allowed him to live out his childhood dreams; it was important to him that his

children see by example that they too could accomplish anything through hard work.

Retirement did not slow him down. It gave him more time to enjoy his family and pursue his passions. He got his pilot's license and enjoyed flying his plane with anyone he could convince to go up with him. He celebrated his 80th birthday by skydiving. Road trips were another beloved pastime. He relished any opportunity to hop in a convertible and find a museum, coffee shop or restaurant off the beaten path. Often with little notice, he would wake up and catch a military hop to visit family and friends as far away as Japan, surprising his wife and the people he was en route to see!

He lived by the motto "Carpe Diem." He woke up each day with purpose, gratitude and joy for life. He was a natural storyteller and enjoyed writing about his life experiences, Cherokee ancestry and current events. And boy did he enjoy engaging in a good debate. As the patriarch, he encouraged and advised his family, and inspired them to be independent. He loved having coffee with his daughters, lunch with his grandsons, and quiet time with his wife. When asked by a daughter what period of his life was his favorite, he replied, "Right now, today is my favorite time."

Dick is survived by his loving wife, Deborah Barnes Jones, their two children, Hilary Jones and Jennifer Jones, and three children from his previous marriage, Nancy Hanks (Brad Bakerink), Kimberly Jones, and Annie Jones. He is also survived by two grandsons, Zack Hanks (Kristin Ross) and Arlo Blankenship, and his siblings, Gene Jones (Kathleen), Jolene Miley (Dennis), and Robert Jones and many nieces and nephews.

Dick's funeral, with military honors, will be Thursday, March 21, at 10:30 a.m. at Grace Episcopal Cathedral, 701 SW 8th Ave, Topeka, KS 66603.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to the Air Combat Museum at Forbes Field, 7016 SE Forbes Ave, Topeka, KS 66619.

Dick's funeral will be livestreamed by Grace Cathedral, you can follow this link, [https://youtube.com/live/YgXCm\\_oddKY?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/YgXCm_oddKY?feature=share).

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

MAR 21. 10:30 AM (CT)

Grace Episcopal Cathedral  
701 SW 8th Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66603

# Tribute Wall

RB

“ My friend Dick Jones was one of a kind. I introduced him to Debbie in Moscow and that was the beginning of their great adventure. I hosted them in Hawaii and as I remember he said Marry me and she said no. Dick don't like NO and the rest is history. My two friends had a life together few will ever know. It is hard for me to explain Dick. As Debbie said, he could be a handful, but a handful of joy and adventure. We shared many political views and took joy in taunting the other side and of course got banned from Facebook often. Good by my friend, rest in peace.

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**Richard Brown** - May 04, 2024 at 12:42 PM

WB

*My sincere condolences to the family. Dick was an inspiring mentor to me in Bermuda when I was a young Seabee. We met again when we were in Washington DC. I always enjoyed talking with him and followed his advice. He was a great Patriot. Farewell my friend.*

*William "Bill/Beetle" Bailey*

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**William Bailey** - May 17, 2024 at 08:07 PM

DJ

“ This is Deborah/Debbie; several people have said that they could not hear what I said about Dick at his memorial service. I did not write my remarks, I had them in my head, but here is more or less what I said:

*SPEAKING ABOUT DICK ON March 21, 2024*

*I am so happy to have had 40 years with my dear husband, Dick, and that you are all here to celebrate him with me and to say farewell.*

*He could be a bit of a handful. Especially on certain political matters. I married him and we went to Africa and then to Israel and to London and other places. So it was some years before we went to live in the United States and I learnt just what his political persuasions were and just how committed he was to his particular path. By then, I had left it a bit late – I was stuck with him.*

*He did have a great aptitude for living in the moment. That could be both a blessing and a challenge. I'll just tell you one remembrance from the time of our wedding. He just blew in for the wedding. My family and I made all the arrangements. I did give him a task. I organized the first part of the honeymoon in Devon in the west of the UK with my usual attention to detail. And Dick was in charge of the rest. So I said to him, “where are we going?” I knew it was the south of France. He said, “it's a surprise!” So eventually we emerge from the car ferry in France.*

*“Now what?” “We will just take it as it comes”, he said. Where are we going? What are the arrangements? It's holiday time, It will be a disaster.”Calm down, it will be fine”. And so it was – it was magical. Somehow we ended up each day with an enchanting place to stay. One day we were in the middle of an orange grove in provence, another we had a hotel where the sea – the Mediterranean - was pounding on the window of our guest room. Another day we got lost, we had to get lost because we had to wander into a home for retired legionaires. Dick doesn't speak French – and goodness knows why State Dpt sent him off to learn Danish, that was a real waste of money, but that's another story – anyway Dick enjoyed a lively*

*conversation with the legionaires. Dick was fascinated by their experience in the second world war.*

*The final night we were in the Gorge de Verdun, France's answer to the Grand Canyon, in a hotel carved out of the cliff side, Birds were swooping down to get our croissant crumbs.*

*He never said "I told you so". He just went on with his life and his journey.*

*I wouldn't say he meandered through life. Not at all. He always had a purpose of one kind or another, and his family was always at the center and his friends in his mind.*

*There's a hymn I thought to include in this service "He who would valiant be" we decided against that hymn as we thought the tune would be challenging for those not in our faith congregation. So we decided against it.*

*"valiant" to be courageous or brave, often in the face of overwhelming odds – And he was, so I am going to read out the verses of this hymn which I think fits him so well:*

*He who would valiant be, 'gainst all disaster, let him in constancy follow the master. There's no discouragement shall make him once relent his first avowed intent to be a pilgrim.*

*Whoso beset him round with dismal stories, do but themselves confound, his strength the more is. No foes shall stay his might, Though he with giants fight, he will make good his right to be a pilgrim*

*Since lord, thou dost defend us with thy spirit we know we at the end shall life inherit. Then fancies flee away, I'll fear not what men say,*

*I'll labor night and day to be a pilgrim.*

*So I will say goodbye for the time being to my half Cherokee, half Welsh, all American husband.*

SG

*Well said Debbie, the hymn personifies Dick, he will leave a huge vacuum in your life I'm sure. Losing your life's partner is one of the hardest things we have to bear, I speak from personal experience. I will always fondly remember the times I spent with Dick he was a one off for sure.*

*With every good wish:  
Steve*

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**Steve Gallant** - April 04, 2024 at 12:10 PM

DN

“*Dick and I met in 1976 in Damascus Syria on a Seabee team. We developed a strong friendship that has endured 48 years. I always respected his advice and opinions. He loved the Seabees. I will miss him.*

*My sincere condolences to his family.*

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**Dennis Nugent** - March 21, 2024 at 06:14 PM

JP

“*Dick and I first met in Frankfurt in 1979, and it has been my honor and pleasure to count him as one of my best friends since then! Where ever our respective careers took us around the world, we always kept in touch with countless emails and phone calls full of serious discussions, jokes and a million laughs!*

*I miss him terribly! Farewell, Friend!*

*John Perdew*

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**John Perdew** - March 20, 2024 at 06:42 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Fredrick "Dick" Jones.*



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March 20, 2024 at 09:29 AM



“ *Danny, Daniel and Dustin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Fredrick "Dick" Jones.*

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**Danny, Daniel and Dustin** - March 20, 2024 at 09:29 AM



“ *All of us at Danny's Car Care would like to send our deepest condolences and prayers to the family and friends of one extraordinary man. "FR" has always been a smiling face in the shop and one of the most loyal customers. Our conversations about small convertible cars and airplanes will always be some our favorite memories and ones we will cherish for years to come.*

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**Danny Lynn** - March 20, 2024 at 09:23 AM

NL

“ I met Dick when I was on my first posting in Tel Aviv. He was such a kind and fun loving man. Both he and his lovely wife Debbie were so kind and inclusive. I will always remember his sense of fun and zest for life.



Natalie Lockwood - March 20, 2024 at 04:13 AM

MC

“ So incredible grateful for Dick’s life, from childhood memories (I promise I will talk to Jen and Hil in Spanish when they come to Uruguay!) to being my family away from home while I was in the US, always coming to the rescue in times of need. His love of life was an inspiration for all, and I feel privileged to have met him. He will be greatly missed.



Michelle Carrere - March 19, 2024 at 01:48 PM

DL

“ I met Dick through politics. I appreciated his straight forward and honest perspective on different views of opinion. His sharing of personal experiences serving in the military were valuable to all. He was a true patriot and it was an honor to know him. Dick will be missed. My deepest sympathies.

Deb Lucia - March 18, 2024 at 12:24 PM

JP

“ We only met Dick twice, but have a wonderful memory of a man of energy and drive, a man of integrity and one with a wonderful sense of humour. A life well lived on earth and who will now be enjoying a party in heaven!

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**Janey Petterson** - March 18, 2024 at 10:44 AM

JO

“ Janey and Paul Petterson, Oxfordshire purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Fredrick "Dick" Jones.



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**Janey and Paul Petterson, Oxfordshire** - March 18, 2024 at 10:41 AM

JO

“ Janey and Paul Petterson, Oxfordshire planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Fredrick "Dick" Jones.

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**Janey and Paul Petterson, Oxfordshire** - March 18, 2024 at 10:41 AM

HE

“ What a life you had Dick. So proud of all of your family and all of your girls. I remember you telling me how lucky I was when I had Ruby. You weren't wrong. I remember Debbie telling me about meeting you and I'm sure Scottish country dancing was involved. Energy, enthusiasm and a passion for life - not seen in many. Rest in peace. Sending love and strength to all.

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**helen** - March 17, 2024 at 03:25 AM

CK

“ Chris, Stacey , Melissa and Addison King purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Fredrick "Dick" Jones.



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**Chris, Stacey , Melissa and Addison King** - March 16, 2024 at 07:27 PM

CK

“ Chris, Stacey , Melissa and Addison King planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Fredrick "Dick" Jones.

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**Chris, Stacey , Melissa and Addison King** - March 16, 2024 at 07:27 PM

HR

“ Uncle Dick, you were my favorite uncle and I loved every second being around you and listening to your stories. You are such an inspiration to everyone you met. I'm sorry I wasn't able to take you up on the offer to fly with you. I miss and love you dearly. ❤️

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**Haley Ridgely** - March 15, 2024 at 10:21 PM

ME

“ You are my Hero, Mentor, beloved Uncle, we will miss you so very much  
Love Melinda and George

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**Melinda** - March 15, 2024 at 09:42 PM

EG

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Elaine Giedrys-Leeper** - March 15, 2024 at 06:58 PM

DS

“ While he served in the legislature, Dick was an active supporter of my issue, we became friends who share our common name , “Dick”. As a result many inside jokes were frequent and enjoyed by all. I wish his family peace and love. I enjoyed and appreciated my friend, Dick

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**Dick C. Stoffer** - March 15, 2024 at 05:56 PM

PS

“ Prime Accounting (Scott, Aaron, and Sam) purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Fredrick "Dick" Jones.



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**Prime Accounting (Scott, Aaron, and Sam)** - March 15, 2024 at 05:51 PM

LA

“ Laurie A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Fredrick "Dick" Jones.

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**Laurie A.** - March 15, 2024 at 05:25 PM

JM

“ Dick you are my hero, friend and most beloved brother. I will miss you for the rest of my life and always cherish the memories we shared as kids to adult hood. You are a big part of my life and that of my children's, and grandchildren's. I never thought I would see this day. I am the oldest and should have been the first to leave, but I guess the Lord didn't see it that way. I will always love you bro, save a place for me in Heaven. Your most loving and adoring sister, Jolene

Jolene Jones Miley - March 15, 2024 at 04:49 PM

JF

“ I have so many great memories of my uncle from advice to debates, thank you for sharing your time with us all, your favorite nephew, John

JOHN Fillman - March 15, 2024 at 04:24 PM

FF

“ From the Hachten Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Fredrick "Dick" Jones.



From the Hachten Family - March 15, 2024 at 03:30 PM

FF

“ From the Hachten Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Fredrick "Dick" Jones.

From the Hachten Family - March 15, 2024 at 03:30 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home** - March 15, 2024 at 03:02 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Fredrick "Dick" Jones.*



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March 15, 2024 at 02:18 PM



“ *The Lockton IAS Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Fredrick "Dick" Jones.*

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**The Lockton IAS Team** - March 15, 2024 at 02:18 PM