



## Karl T. Baker, Sr.

November 21, 1926 - April 23, 2016

Karl T Baker Sr peacefully passed away April 23rd 2016 at his home in Philomath, Oregon. He was born on November 21, 1926 in San Mateo, CA. He was the second son of John Allen Baker and Dorothy Baker. His older brother John Allen Baker II passed away in 2013.

After completing high school early Karl joined the Merchant Marine. He was a part of the crew of the SS Mission Buenaventura, an oil tanker. Karl joined the ship when it was loaded with oil from the Gulf sailed through the Panama Canal out into the Pacific in 1944. The ship delivered most of its load in the Marianna's Islands. The ship sailed to San Francisco via Pearl Harbor. During the middle of the night stop in Pearl, Karl suspected that his brother Jack (serving on the naval vessel PC 582), was in port. Karl did find Jack playing cards below deck on the PC 582. (Karl had a knack for finding someone he knew where ever he went.) After a couple of hours, Karl's ship headed back to sea. Those Navy boys pointed out how big the bullseye was for the tankers in the Pacific by the enemy. Karl now understood why the pay was so high compared to the regular military pay. Good lesson for a 17 year old.

Upon arrival back at the west coast, Karl enlisted in the US Army. During the last phase of Boot Camp, a posting was made for those interested in joining the Army Air Corp. Karl figured flying was better than walking. He became an Airplane and engine mechanic before being sent to Johnson Army Air Force base in Honshu, Japan. He was assigned to the 82nd Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron. Later he served on B-29's flying around the world

as a part of SAC. Then he was in the first group trained to work on the first jets entering serving the USAF (Lockheed P-80 Shooting Star).

Karl was recalled for the Korean War and sent back to Japan for war service.

Karl was discharged for the last time in June 1952. He truly enjoyed his military service and those experiences served his children well.

Between the wars he worked in Portland, met Virginia Owens of Corvallis. She was a Registered Nurse at OHSU. Between them they had 4 children, Karl Jr, Mark (deceased in 1982), Catherine, and Susan. They divorced several years later. Before and after the wars he worked for Standard Oil Co in Portland and Corvallis. In March 1967 he opened the Enco/Exxon "service" station at 3rd and Western in Corvallis. In 1975 he was selected to work with Herb Hammond on the construction of the Law Enforcement Building that opened in 1976. He worked as the building maintenance person there, the county jail, public service building (the old clinic location), and public works. He retired in 1991.

In addition to his children Karl is survived by many grand and great grandchildren. His ashes were scattered at his favorite elk hunting site near Ukiah, OR.

# Tribute Wall

CM

“ Thank you everyone for your kindness. My dad was a strong man, a good man who loved to tell stories and have big laughs with his friends that he cherished. He was charming, had a twinkle in his eye so bright that I wonder if we can see it from heaven. He taught me many life lessons; it is okay to play hard as long as you balance with working hard. Try to do right by others, if you borrow from your neighbor always return it in better condition than you borrowed it. He taught me never take yourself so serious. Laugh, play and enjoy life.

*I have a million stories and memories that still make me laugh years later. I think Dad would love to know that even though he has left this world, his stories will keep us laughing and remembering for another life time or two.*

*Forever love you Dad,  
Your daughter, Cathy*

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**Cathy Baker Martinelli** - May 24, 2016 at 01:16 AM

JW

“ RIP Karl....He always had the best sense of humor!! This is a great photo posted of him. I will remember that smile most of all. I remember our catch up conversations whenever our paths would cross. His daughter, Cathy (Baker) Martinelli is my Best Friend and I thank you Karl for that. My Condolences to the entire family. May all the good memories find you comfort. Say hello to my family up there for me Karl. ( Herb will have a story & cold beer waiting for you.) : )

*Jan Washburn-Fielder*

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**Jan Washburn-Fielder** - May 11, 2016 at 12:00 AM

EL

“ I knew Karl through my father-in-law, Beryl Hamar. Karl, Beryl, and Ben Hockema would meet for early morning coffee at the Gay Parfait.

*He was a sly guy with a great sense of humor, and, quite the flirt!  
We also lived in the same neighborhood and I knew his family.  
Rest in peace, Karl*

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**Eileen Hope Hamar Langton** - May 06, 2016 at 11:19 PM

CC

*The 3 of them are probably meeting up for coffee already. RIP all of you guys.*

*Connie Hockema Caranto*

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**Connie Caranto** - July 27, 2016 at 03:00 PM

MW

“ We will always remember Karl's thoughtfulness, kindness and always being so helpful during our many years of friendship. RIP my friend.

*Merle and Jean Woods*

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**Merle Woods** - April 28, 2016 at 10:20 AM

GS

“ Karl Baker Sr. Owned a service station in Corvallis in the late '60' and early 70's. Greg Smith OSU'72

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**Greg Smith** - April 26, 2016 at 02:12 PM

CH

*Sorry to hear I just learned of Karl's passing.*

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**Carlene Hockema** - May 07, 2016 at 03:15 PM