



## James B Akins Jr

August 27, 1927 - May 26, 2015

James B. Akins

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“Jim” was born to James and Gladys Akins in Lawton, Kansas on August 27, 1927. After graduating from high school in Columbus, Kansas he enlisted in the Navy, October 11, 1945. Jim spent the last months of WWII with the Pacific Fleets War effort. At the end of his service Jim went back to Columbus where he wooed a young lady, Mary Elizabeth Harper, and married her on August 24, 1950. Jim was called back into service for the Korean War and was stationed in Florida where he took his new bride with him. This began their life together for the next 64  $\frac{3}{4}$  years.

Jim started as an aircraft mechanic in Wichita, Kansas for the Boeing Aircraft Company in February 1952. He was then transferred to Seattle, Washington in 1969 to work on the 747 program. After 38 years with the Boeing Company, Jim decided to retire in 1990.

Jim Akins was a friend of our Lord Jesus Christ, and helped the building and leadership of the Disciples of Christ Church in Mulvane, Kansas. He was a 32 degree Mason and belonged to the Scottish Rites.

Jim and Mary were members of the Wildcat camping club in Mulvane and

were founding members of the Washington Totems camping club.

Jim believed in supporting the local food banks. He volunteered his time to the Soap Lake Food Bank after moving there from western Washington.

During his retirement years Jim and Mary traveled to various parts of the United States. The winter times were spent in Arizona with the last 17 years at Lake Pleasant Resort in Peoria.

Jim Akins was a family man with all the various titles of husband to Great-Grandpa. Holidays, camping trips and family gatherings created fond memories for his family and friends, with stories painting a beautiful picture of his sacrifice and love for his family.

He is survived by his wife, Mary and their 4 daughters, Carol Schulz (Keith) of Soap Lake, WA, Brenda Picht (Tom) of Corvallis, OR, Mary Ann Lee of Granite Falls, WA and Lois Baldwin (Art) of Aurora, CO. Jim was blessed with 8 grandchildren and 10  $\frac{3}{4}$  great-grandchildren.

Memorial service for Jim will be held Friday, June 5th at Nicoles Funeral Home, 157 C Street NW, Ephrata, WA at 1pm followed by a brief graveside service at Valley View Memorial Park, Soap Lake, WA. A celebration of Jim's life will then be held at Keith and Carol's home, 219 Juniper N, Soap Lake.

In lieu of flowers donations in Jim's name may be made to the Soap Lake Food Bank, PO Box 925, Soap Lake, WA 98851.

# Cemetery Details

## Valley View Memorial Park

20174 Rd A N.E.  
Soap Lake, WA 98851  
(509) 754-4150  
bea.white@nicolesfuneralhome.com

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 5. 12:00 PM (PT)

Nicoles Funeral Home  
157 C St. N.W.  
Ephrata, WA 98823  
(509) 754-3420  
bea.white@nicolesfuneralhome.com

## Service

JUN 5. 1:00 PM (PT)

Nicoles Funeral Home  
157 C St. N.W.  
Ephrata, WA 98823  
(509) 754-3420  
bea.white@nicolesfuneralhome.com

# Tribute Wall

FL

“ I always looked up to Jim a he handled himself in an honorable and upstanding way. I enjoyed his sense of humor and just sitting around talking with him. He was intelligent and open. He didn't prejudge people, he took them at face value.  
The world has lost one of it's best. An extremely nice person.  
Fred and Helen Loeb

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**Fred Loeb** - June 06, 2015 at 09:15 PM

MS

“ After a long blessed life Jim now rests with our Lord.

*For 36 years Jim Akins has been a friend and father figure. In fact, I have known Jim longer than I knew my own father. Jim was the kind of man we should all aspire to be more like.*

*I was first introduced to Jim when son in-law Keith and I were going fishing and needed gas. This was during the fuel crisis in the 1970's. Then after Ann and I were married we spent a whole lot of holidays, card playing nights, camping trips, fishing trips and yes, lots of "Tea Times" with Jim and Mary.*

*There was only one thing that you never said in the Akins' house and Ann found out the hard way just what that was.*

*Now, we have a friends and family plot here in Soap Lake as Jim will be laid to rest near my wife Ann. Not everyone knows what it is like to suffer the loss a spouse. Oh yes, people say they are, "sorry for your loss." Or, "they understand our pain," But the truth is that until they have been in the same situation they can't really know.*

*I will miss you Jim. A life well lived. May you rest in peace and walk with our Lord forever.*

*Mike Shirley*

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**Michael Shirley** - May 31, 2015 at 11:55 AM

JW

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Jeanette White** - May 28, 2015 at 08:40 PM

GH

“ *Jim will be missed by so many Arizona friends. Sitting and shelling the walnuts he shared with others, cooking at the club house and how we love to hear his story's at cocktail time. Mary and family my deepest sympathy and blessing to you and the family.*  
*Glenda Heithus*

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**Glenda heithus** - May 28, 2015 at 05:53 PM

BT

*Oi Blue eyes you sure are going to be missed. Enjoyed all the good times we had at Boeing together. Lots of happy memories God bless your Family. Love Bob and Annie Travelstead.*

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**Bob Travelstead** - May 30, 2015 at 11:00 AM

FH

*Mary,Keith, Carol, Kari and Joshua, we send our condolences on the passing of husband, father and grandfather. we have special memories of the years we all camped together at Ft. Flagler with its laughter, great meals, card playing, swapping stories, and Jim's prayer before the potluck dinner.*

*Fred and Judy Hanenburg*

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**Fred and Judy Hanenburg** - June 02, 2015 at 09:13 PM

BB

*I am sadden to hear of Jim passing he was an enjoyabe person to work with. The group of retired Flight Test men and women meet tomorrow and thoughts and memories of Jim will be shared. Or thoughts and prayers are with the family.*

*Bob Blankenship*

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**Bob Blankenship** - June 03, 2015 at 11:54 PM