

## Richard D Spencer

January 8, 1935 - December 12, 2024

### Richard D. Spencer Obituary

Richard was born January 8, 1935 in Albion, Michigan. His family lived in Chicago during World War II. They moved to the St Louis, Missouri area after the war. His senior year, he left high school friends behind and moved with his parents to Bethesda, Maryland.

After high school, he returned to Missouri and received a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Missouri, in 1958.

He was an engineer at Marquardt Aircraft in Los Angeles, California for four years. After that, he wanted a new challenge and attended the UCLA school of business. He graduated with a MBA, specializing in Numeric Analysis and Decision Theory. While there, he was introduced to a new, important tool, computers.

In 1965, he became a civilian employee of the Navy in the Operations Research Department in Port Hueneme, California.

In his spare time, he studied the stock market and developed his own evaluation model for stock options. He also pursued outdoor interests – bird hunting and backpacking. Through the Sierra Club singles group, he met

Kathy Bryant, whom he married in 1972.

Our son Aaron was born in 1973. We three continued to backpack, spending many Thanksgiving weekends in a tent in the forest. Richard built his first computer from kits and surplus parts.

In 1979, we moved to Wenatchee. We had discovered it during a vacation trip, camping in a truck that Richard had modified. Richard used his knowledge of the stock market to provide income with assistance from Kathy's employment as a physical therapist. He continued to keep up with developments in the computer field and over the years, we built three more computers from parts ordered online.

We took up white water canoeing in the 1990's. One especially memorable trip was paddling the 336 mile long Nahanni River in Canada, with Aaron and seven friends. We also paddled 158 other rivers.

We hiked the Pacific Crest Trail in Washington, in sections. We were joined for some sections by Aaron and/or our good friend Jerry Garrett.

We also enjoyed travel - to Canada, Russia, England, China, Australia, Chile, Turkey, Italy and New Zealand.

In 2006, Richard located a son who was adopted after birth. James Lloyd, his wife Monique Lloyd and son Trevor Lloyd became part of our family.

Pulmonary and cardiac problems worsened this last year. Richard died December 12th, peacefully at home, with the caring assistance of Confluence Health Home Care and Hospice.

He was preceded in death by his mother, father, and brother. He is survived

by his wife Kathy, son Aaron and his wife, Midori Takagi, son James and his wife Monique and grandchildren Kenzo Spencer-Takagi, Mika Spencer-Takagi, and Trevor Lloyd.

A Celebration of Life is planned for late spring.

Arrangements by Jones & Jones - Betts Funeral Home.

# Tribute Wall

HL

“ Kathy, my best to you and Aaron. When Tom Lucas and I were first married and had our first child, Mary, Richard was student at Missouri Univ. and came to spend week-end with us and brought a rattle for Mary. As his parents had moved west, we saw quite a bit of him until he graduated. He would lay on the couch with his computer and play the market. I treasure the memories that included you as well and so glad you were able to come to Seattle when I was there visiting granddaughter Katie. my love, Helen Lucas

Helen Lucas - January 14, 2025 at 04:37 PM

HL

“ Jim and I are sad to hear that one of our PaadleTrails buddies has passed. We had many wonderful times with Richard and Kathy, especially on the 9-day San Juan River in Utah. Warmest regards to Kathy and son Aaron. We will miss Dick. Love, Helen



Helen Lawton - December 30, 2024 at 06:06 PM

HL

“ Jim and I have enjoyed many lovely canoe trips with Richard and Kathy. Nine days on the San Juan River was particularly memorable. We are very grateful to them for their friendship and boating enthusiasm. Dick will be missed. Our heartfelt condolences to Kathy and Aaron.

Helen Lawton - December 30, 2024 at 05:34 PM

DP

“ *My wife and I shared many days paddling with Dick and Kathy over the years. We are sorry to hear he has passed.* ”

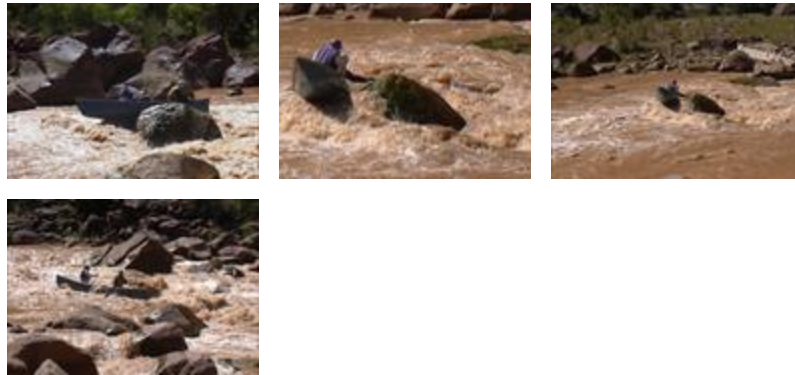


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**Dave and Peggy** - December 30, 2024 at 01:47 PM

KH

“ *4 files added to the album Richard on exciting rapids, Gates of Ladore, Green River canoe with Kathy* ”



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**Karen Hensley** - December 28, 2024 at 08:25 PM

KH

“ We always enjoyed canoe trips with Richard & Kathy. They were awesome in their tandem canoe!

See a few exciting photos of Dick on the Green River doing the Gates of Lodore to Dinosaur National Monument.

The Smith river in Montana was our most recent overnight together, and we were so thrilled to have been invited!

Methow River runs on Paddle Trails Canoe club trips over the 4th of July in past years were a staple of the outdoor scene for us.

Being engineers ourselves, we already miss Richard's engineering-direct stated views on all things :-)

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**Karen Hensley** - December 27, 2024 at 10:50 PM