



## Howard Wagner

December 9, 1937 - June 4, 2018

Howard Edward Wagner  
Dec. 9, 1937 – June 4, 2018

Howard Edward Wagner passed away June 4, 2018, at Samaritan Hospital, surrounded by his caring family. He was a compassionate and loving man, who always put family first and was well loved by his family and friends for 80 years.

Howard was born in LaGrande, Ore., to Marion and Ethel Donohue Wagner and is preceded in death by his parents. As a child, Howard worked on the family farm, where the family was well-known for raising grass seed. His love of airplanes was evident early in life, as he learned to fly and bought a plane before graduating from high school in 1955. His flying career included sales, flight instruction, charter, firefighting, crop dusting, and air ambulance, logging thousands of flight hours.

In 1957, Howard married Darlene Moore and they farmed in Imbler, Ore. Howard began his flying career in Spokane, later moving to Walla Walla, and settling in Moses Lake, where he operated Wagner Aircraft as a full service flight center.

In 1980, he married Karen Gordon, and he would often say he married Karen so he could have two daughters and another son. Howard loved to vacation and fish in Cabo San Lucas with family and friends.

Always a leader, Howard served on the boards or as president of Moses Lake

Lions Club, Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce/Ambassadors, Moses Lake Spring Festival Founding Father, and Sister City. He received numerous awards and honors, including Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year. In addition to farming and operating Wagner Aircraft, Howard also worked with Executive Flight Service, Steve Cox Farms, Chuck Yarbro Auctioneers, Michael's on the Lake, Busby International, and Alsted Real Estate. He is survived by his wife Karen; brothers Ted (Raylene) and Dale (Melba); sisters Chris Meyers (Dean) and Sharon Harsin; sons Howard Jr. (Cindy), David (Maggie), Alan (Tracie); stepdaughters Shelley Bond (Mark), Julie Read (Paul); stepson Jim Gordon; and grandchildren Erin, Sydney, Jaymee, Ben, Nathan, Katie, Sam, Nick, Jake and Max. He was fortunate to have most of his family living in Washington state.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Big Bend Community College Foundation (Aviation Scholarship Fund), 7662 Chanute Street NE, Moses Lake, WA 98837, in memory of Howard Wagner. BBCC Foundation website.

A Celebration of Life service will be held for Howard on Saturday, June 16, at 2 p.m. at the Big Bend Community College ATEC building, 7662 Chanute Street NE, Moses Lake, WA 98837, with a dessert reception following.

Please sign the online guestbook or leave a note for the family at [www.kayser-schapel.com](http://www.kayser-schapel.com) Arrangements are in care of Kayser's Chapel & Crematory.

# Cemetery Details

## Guarding Angels Cemetery

2595 Road L N.E.  
Moses Lake, WA 98837  
(509) 765-7848


# Previous Events

## Service

JUN 16. 2:00 PM (PT)

Big Bend Community College ATEC Building 1800  
Library & Grant County Advanced Technologies Education Center  
Moses Lake, WA 98837

# Tribute Wall

 Sharon  
Zornes

“ Our deepest sympathies to Karen and family. Howard and Karen were wonderful to me during my time as Miss Moses Lake 1982. Rest In Peace.  
*Sharon and Jeff Zornes*

---

**Sharon Zornes** - June 24, 2018 at 04:23 AM

HH

“ To Karen & entire family, with deepest condolences for your loss. So sorry to hear of Howard passing. Howard was a great friend, great boss & really great pilot. He will be missed but never forgotten.

*Hal Hollenbeck*

---

**Hal Hollenbeck** - June 15, 2018 at 03:55 PM

SH

“ Shelley lit a candle in memory of Howard Wagner



---

**Shelley** - June 10, 2018 at 09:49 PM

CK

“ Dear Karen and family; How do you say Goodbye to a man who has led his family with grace, dignity, and humor for so many years? It is impossible!! To his family and friends, his words of wisdom and quick wit will live on through them. So it will never be goodbye, simply see you soon. Howard's zest for life was truly contagious. He made everyone with whom he came in contact with, feel special. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Wagner family....Sincerely,  
Cathy and Paul Kersey

---

**Cathy Kersey** - June 10, 2018 at 07:21 PM

DA

“Wagner family and friends, as our dear Howard has departed earthly bonds, we all will hold him in fond memory of days gone by and look forward to joining him at our collective final reward.

*With these thoughts, I would like to share one of my favorite passages*

*Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth, and danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings sun ward I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth of sun-split clouds and done a hundred things.*

*You have not dreamed of wheeled and soared and swung high in the sunlit silence. Hovering there I've chased the shouting wind along and flung my eager craft through footless halls of air.*

*"Up, up the long delirious burning blue I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace where never lark, or even eagle, flew and while with silent, lifting mind I've trod the high untrespassed sanctity of space put out my hand and touched the face of God.*

*Fair winds and following skies my friend*

*Dave Teed  
USN RET*

---

**Dave** - June 10, 2018 at 06:49 PM

CS

“Karen & Family, My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. It was a joy to work right next to Howard. I will miss his "Good Morning, Cathy" greeting that I received from him every morning at the office and his hearty laugh that always made me smile.



---

**Cathy Strickland** - June 08, 2018 at 01:24 PM

SG

“ Karen & Family, Please accept my condolences on Howard's passing. A good man who left a big legacy. May God be with you all.  
Sally Goodwin

Sally Goodwin - June 08, 2018 at 09:59 AM

AP

“ Dear Karen and all of the Wagner family,  
My condolences are being sent to all of you. Howard's passing is being felt far and wide. He left a big footprint and touched so many lives. He was a great person and one who was well respected by many including me. My thoughts and prayers are will all of you during this difficult time. God Bless you all. Alice Parker

Alice Parker - June 07, 2018 at 11:02 PM

SU

“ We love Howard Wagner and will miss him terribly, working with him 5 days a week for many years. We pray for peace and comfort for Karen and the Family. Many memories, many stories that he has left with us. Much love,  
Mark and Susan Fanning



Susan - June 05, 2018 at 05:47 PM