

## Jack H Childress

April 25, 1926 - December 16, 2015

Jack Childress, 1926 - 2015

Here in Moses Lake, the amazing life of Jack Childress, longtime Businessman and resident, ended December 16, 2015 at the age of 89. Jack was born in 1926 in Unionville, Missouri. He grew up during the depression and thought poverty was just a way of life, everyone was poor and work was hard to find. The Childress family made its way from Missouri to Yakima, Washington where Jack worked as a farm hand. He fell in love with aviation watching the bi-plane crop dusters spray the fields.

At the outbreak of WWII Jack enlisted in the Army and requested the Army Air Corps. He qualified for the Army Aviation Cadet Training Program. The program was full so Jack ended up training as an aerial gunner for assignment to a B-17 bomber often referred to as the flying fortress.

Jack was assigned to the flight crew of the Gypsy Princess, a B-17 bomber as tail gunner, part of the 385th Heavy Bomber Group, 550th Bombing Squadron. Jack flew many bombing missions over German occupied territory fighting the ever present German Messerschmitt fighters along the way. The 550th Bombing Squadron received two Distinguished Unit Citations for bomb missions over German controlled territory.

After the War, in 1946 Jack worked in Yakima as a car mechanic where he met his soon-to-be lifetime business partner, Larry VanKeulin, who also worked as a mechanic. The two became best friends with too much ambition to work for wages. They decided to go into business for themselves which eventually brought the two of them to Moses Lake. They opened up a car repair business, then added a used car lot, and in a few years their hard work was rewarded by Ford Motor Company when Jack and Larry became an Edsel Franchisee. Jack worked the car sales part of the business and Larry worked the mechanical service part.

After Ford discontinued the Edsel, Jack and Larry persuaded Chrysler Corporation to franchise them as a Dodge Dealer. Over the years their business, C & V Auto Sales and Service flourished and they added the Jeep and Chrysler Franchises. Jack's son Richard Childress joined the business in 1978 and eventually took over C & V after Jack and Larry retired.

Over the years in Moses Lake, Jack has held various positions, some of which include: President of the Chamber of Commerce; President of the Moses Lake Golf & Country Club; President and then Treasurer of the American Legion; and Board Member Washington State Auto Dealers Association.

Jack is survived by: wife Glenna Childress; son Richard Childress and his wife Robin; son Steven Childress and his wife Carol; daughter Vicki Childress; grandson Kyle Childress and his wife Crystal Childress; granddaughter Kaylynn Castillo and her husband Brandon Castillo; four great grandchildren; step daughter Linda Hansen and her Husband Doug together with the Hansen's children and grandchildren. Jack was preceded in death by his grandson Carter Hayes Childress and his step-daughter Janet Beckley.

The family invites Jack's friends to Kayser's Chapel located at 831 South Pioneer Way

Moses Lake, Monday, December 21st from 3 to 7 p.m. for a viewing to say a final “goodbye” to Jack. Funeral Service will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church located at 1020 S. “A” Street, Moses Lake, on Wednesday, December 23, 2015 at 2:00 PM. Please sign the online guestbook or leave a note for the family.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **21**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Kayser's Chapel & Crematory  
831 South Pioneer Way  
Moses Lake, WA 98837  
(509) 765-7848  
kayserschapel@gmail.com

## Service

DEC **23**. 2:00 PM (PT)

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
1020 S. A Street  
Moses Lake, WA

# Tribute Wall

WH

“ To Glenna and family, Our best to you. We knew Jack as a neighbor, in church and later through C&V Auto. He was always very friendly and gracious to us. He will be missed. Wayne & Janine Holle

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**Wayne Holle** - December 24, 2015 at 12:31 PM

DV

“ I will miss Jack's humor and graciousness. I have many good memories of him and Larry over the past years. I know they are having a joyful reunion in heaven. Many prayers and blessings to his lovely family. Donna VanKeulen

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**Donna VanKeulen** - December 23, 2015 at 07:39 PM

BF

“ Have many great memories of the times I shared with Jack. Golf Club, Porterhouse, Bob's Café, goes on and on. Great businessman, great community man and just plain a great man. Condolences to all the family. RIP Jack.

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**Bob Fancher** - December 23, 2015 at 01:36 PM

KH

“ We will miss him. He was a good man and will be missed by family, friends and community. We pray for peace and happiness and good memories to be with the family during this time. We are grateful that we knew Jack.

*Love from Kelly and Sandy Hansen and family*

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**Kelly Hansen** - December 21, 2015 at 11:42 AM

JM

“ *The Childress and Mulliken families go way back. We extend our prayers and love to Richard and family. Mike & Joyce Mulliken*

**Joyce Mulliken** - December 19, 2015 at 10:04 PM

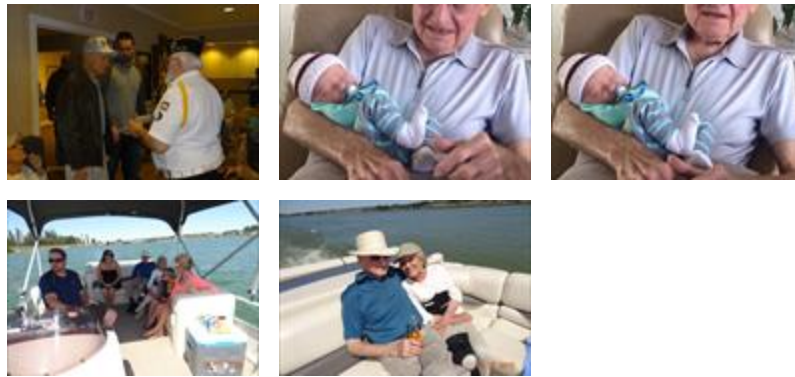
DT

“ *i only knew jack through his son rich grandson kyle heart and prayers to the family*

**darrell templeton** - December 19, 2015 at 08:20 AM

KY

“ *12 files added to the album New Album Name*



**KYLE** - December 18, 2015 at 07:12 PM

ME

*He will be missed. Always in our hearts*

**Meagan** - December 19, 2015 at 02:40 PM

BD

*Donald always admired Jack and held him in the highest esteem, hopefully they will be reunited in heaven, he will always be in my heart. He was a great Brother and friend to Don.*

**Betty Dietz** - December 23, 2015 at 11:24 PM

KC

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



**Kayser's Chapel** - December 18, 2015 at 12:49 PM



*God Bless his family and may he rest in peace with God. He was a well known man and I knew him some what from the past and dealt with Rich.*

**Wilma Holeman** - December 19, 2015 at 06:20 PM

PL

*Our deepest sympathy to the family*

**Pam and Lonnie** - December 22, 2015 at 07:26 PM

JS

*Rich and family my thoughts and prayers go out to you.I have many fond memories of the early years at C and V with Jack and Larry.They were a big part of my life in the automotive business. God Bless Jay Sooter*

**Jay Sooter** - December 23, 2015 at 06:55 PM

LR

*Jack was always a class act, and an important contributor to the community. He was fair, honest, and a good competitor with the Rigsby family at Moses Lake Ford. Condolences to Rich and all the family.*

**Larry Rigsby** - December 23, 2015 at 10:30 PM

EM

*Jack was a father to me I will never ever forget him*

**Ed mattingley** - January 24, 2016 at 12:59 AM