



## Earl E. "Pete" Balch

June 12, 1937 - June 25, 2018

Earl 'Pete' Balch

Earl Edwin 'Pete' Balch, age 81, from Milwaukie, passed away on June 25, in Tualatin, Oregon.

Pete was born on June 12, 1937, in Covina, California, to Guadalupe Garcia Balch and Edwin Earl Balch. He attended Citrus High School in Glendora, California, later completing a GED. Pete served as a second class petty officer (Engineman) in the United States Navy from 1955 to 1959 and as a reserve from 1959 to 1963. Pete was stationed on the USS Dixie in San Diego, California. His tours included: Yokosuka, Japan; Sasebo, Japan; Hong Kong, China; and Manila, Philippines. He married Carol Franklin on October 3, 1959. Pete was raised in Azusa, California, and after their marriage, Pete and Carol moved to Duarte, California, where they resided until 1972. They then established residency in Milwaukie, Oregon.

While still living in California, Pete worked as a tool grinder for Rainbird, Witteman Company, and Berteia Corporation. After moving to Oregon, Pete worked for Warn Industries in Milwaukie, Oregon, where he retired after 26 years of service as a tool grinder and supervisor. He also served as a representative for General Broach Company of Morenci, Michigan.

Pete was a member of the Canby Gun Club and the National Hot Rod Association. His love of cars began at an early age. He began drag racing at Irwindale Raceway in the 1950s. During the 1960s, he built his race car, The Assassin, a chopped 1957 Chevy hardtop, which was featured on the cover of Hot Rod Magazine Yearbook #12 in 1972. His love of cars continued until his passing. He was always searching for old cars to rebuild, car parts to collect, or any other project related to cars. When he wasn't hunting for cars, Pete was hunting deer, elk, antelope, ducks, pheasant, and sage rats. Some of his favorite hunting spots were East Sled Springs, near Enterprise, Oregon, Steens Mountain, and Wyoming. He also enjoyed fishing and camping, especially at Paulina Lake, and always with family. Although he loved cars, hunting, and fishing, Pete's love for family always came first, including his family in all the activities he loved.

Pete is survived by his wife of 58 years, Carol Balch; and daughters, Toni Gibson (Brian), and Julie Ellis (Jason). Pete will also be lovingly remembered by his grandchildren, Jennifer Costanzo (Scott), Justin Gibson and Addie Ellis; and great-grandsons, Nicholas and Joshua Costanzo. Pete was preceded in death by his mother, Guadalupe Garcia; father, Edwin Balch; brother, Robert Thompson; and grandson Jonathan Gibson. Funeral services will be held on July 9th, 11:30, at Hillside Chapel, 1306 7th Street in Oregon City. Procession immediately following for 1:30 Committal at Willamette National Cemetery.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 8. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (PT)

Hillside Chapel  
1306 7th Street  
Oregon City, OR

## Funeral Service

JUL 9. 11:30 AM (PT)

Hillside Chapel  
1306 7th Street  
Oregon City, OR

## Committal Service w/ Military Honors

JUL 9. 1:30 PM (PT)

Willamette National Cemetery  
11800 Southeast Mount Scott Boulevard  
Portland, OR

# Tribute Wall



“ *Hillside Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Earl E. "Pete" Balch*



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**Hillside Chapel** - August 06, 2018 at 02:03 PM



“ *Earl E. "Pete" Balch*

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January 28, 2023 at 02:51 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Earl E. "Pete" Balch.*



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July 06, 2018 at 06:08 PM



“ *Great man - great family.  
Always strong for his family and always will be. All my love  
Marc Weaver*

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**marc weaver** - July 06, 2018 at 03:12 PM



“ 173 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Hillside Chapel - July 06, 2018 at 11:45 AM



“ Moe and Marilyn Holum and Family purchased the *Basket of Memories* for the family of Earl E. "Pete" Balch.



Moe and Marilyn Holum and Family - July 05, 2018 at 04:34 PM



“ 150 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Hillside Chapel - July 05, 2018 at 02:14 PM

JS

“ Jack & Jackie Snyder purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Earl E. "Pete" Balch.



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**Jack & Jackie Snyder** - July 03, 2018 at 03:11 PM



“ 19 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Hillside Chapel** - July 03, 2018 at 11:49 AM