



JACK GILMORE

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Children: Kevin, Kory, Lisa, Cheris, Joel and Jeremy

Grandchildren: Nicholas, Grant, Maleana, Christopher, Rebecca, Anthony, Drew, Emma, JP (short for Jeremy Paul II), Tori, Ryland, Brendon, Makayla, and Lucas (just 6-months-old!) Whew!

Right out of high school, I joined the Army. Most of my three-year enlistment was spent in the Headquarters-of-Europe Army Band, located in Heidelberg, Germany. Traveled to many different countries during that time. It was a great experience, but one that I didn't appreciate then, as much as I would now. I haven't been back. But it's on my bucket list.

I separated from the service in August of 1966. Married my first wife in September. Attended OCE (now Western Oregon University), majoring in Music Ed. It was a shock to discover during student teaching that I didn't want to teach high-school band. Leaving school wasn't the smartest thing I've ever done. But leave I did, to launch myself into the music business.

Life on the road was glorious, doing the one thing I loved to do more than anything. And to think, they actually paid me for having all that fun. But I had a wife and two young boys at home. Then, in 1972 my daughter Lisa was born. I tried various day jobs along with music here and there. During a short stretch of unemployment, I took the postal exam. I was hired in July of 1973. Hey! It was something to fill the gap, and pay bills, while I figured out what I really wanted to do in order to avoid being an absentee father. Thirty years later I was still trying to figure out what I really wanted to do.

My first marriage ended in 1978. The wife decided she just didn't want to be married anymore – to anyone. I was remarried a year later, and in 1980, 12 days after Mt. St. Helens blew her top, Joel and Jeremy, identical twin boys, were born. They were, and continue to be, one of the greatest joys in my life. All my kids are precious to me. But I've had more direct contact with Joel and Jeremy.

During my postal career, I never gave up playing music. In the 80's I joined a 50's Rock 'n' Roll show band named "Ricky and The Rockets". You guys would have loved it. We played all the music we danced to in school. Also spent 14 years singing with The Salem Big Band.

After two long-term "trial" marriages, I finally found the love of my life. Debbie, also a SSSS alumnus Class of '72, and I met during a Salem Big Band performance in 1994. We were married two years later.

Since my retirement from the USPS in August of 2000, I have owned and operated a landscaping business, an alarm company, a woodworking business, with some photography on the side.

These days, my honey-do list gets longer and longer, no matter how many items I'm able to complete – mostly remodeling projects. Occasionally, we are able to get away to someplace tropical. Just got back from St. Thomas. Debbie wants to move there.

I was able to check off an item from my bucket list that I didn't even know was on the list. Coming back from St. Thomas, we stopped in New Jersey to visit with Debbie's crazy family. On Monday, June 17, 2013, Debbie and I, and 4 of her family members went skydiving. YES! I said SKYDIVING! I'm not sure we're supposed to be doing stuff like that at our age. But, hey, it's just a number. Right. I would be hard pressed to tell you why I jumped out of a perfectly good airplane at 10,000 feet, except to say, "The door was open." I have no idea what's next.

Wow! That's probably way more than you wanted to know about me. But, that's my story, and I'm sticking to it.

I am so looking forward to seeing all of you at the reunion.

