



Michael E Maier

July 4, 1943 - November 5, 2024

Michael E. Maier, of Bellingham, Wash., passed away peacefully and in the company of his wife Mary, after living with progressive dementia for eight years. Michael was born in Gulfport, Miss., to Glen and Frances Maier, where Glen was serving in the Navy at the time.

The Maier family lived in many places during Michael's childhood, including Rathdrum, Idaho, Yakima, Everett, Redmond, and Seattle. Michael recalled playing in the woods and creeks of Carkeek Park during his elementary years in Seattle. In the mid-1950s, the family settled in Cheney, Wash. Michael graduated from Cheney High School in 1961, and then enrolled at Eastern Washington University. While earning a BA in psychology, he also completed ROTC training and graduated as an officer in the Army.

Michael served four years of active duty in the Army, spending a year in northern Germany and a year in Vietnam. In Vietnam, he worked as an aerial observer. Alongside a pilot, he rode in a bubble-front observation helicopter and searched for the enemy. Michael described this as the best job he ever had. He loved to fly and was an excellent navigator. In 1969, he retired from the 1st of the 9th Cavalry with the rank of Captain.

Back in the US, Michael studied geology as a graduate student at Western Washington University, and eventually made his career as a title officer at

Ticor Title, and later at Chicago Title. During his first marriage, Michael had two daughters, Monica and Kathryn. Monica fondly recalled making dinner with her dad, flying kites and hiking together during her childhood.

In 1991, Michael married Mary Chaney at the First Congregational Church of Bellingham, where they attended for the rest of his life.

Michael's interests included nature, travel, reading, and history. He was an avid hiker and hiked many trails in the North Cascades. In about 1985, he climbed Mount Baker.

Michael and Mary were fortunate to travel regularly, enjoying trips to England, Scotland, Australia, Italy, Greece, France and Ecuador. He liked to research the landscapes and history of places they traveled. One of Michael's favorite places they visited was Sterling Castle in England.

In 1993, Michael and Mary had a house built on Racine Street. They both thoroughly enjoyed the design and construction process. Michael worked on the landscaping and raised-bed vegetable gardens. He was knowledgeable about rhododendrons and planted some 40 rhodies in the yard. In his garden beds, he grew very tasty carrots, beans, lettuce, and sugar peas. Mary enjoyed eating them!

Michael also liked geology and could tell about many kinds of earth formations and rocks. On road trips to Montana and other locales, sometimes with dear friends Dick and Kay Porter, Michael pursued roadside geology, expertly identifying different landscape formations as they drove along. Michael also read extensively, especially books about history, World War II, and Vietnam, and magazines such as Smithsonian and National Geographic. He and Mary participated in an active book club for many years.

In 2016, Michael was diagnosed with dementia, and he and Mary moved to a condo in Fairhaven. Michael really enjoyed the view from the condo, looking out onto Bellingham Bay. He was a keen observer of nature, watching the weather, the birds and the beautiful sunsets.

Michael is survived by his wife Mary; his daughter Monica Fiscus and husband Ben of Black Diamond, Wash.; his daughter Kathryn Maier of New York; and his brother John, of Bellingham. Michael's extended family includes Mary's son David Chaney, of Geelong, Australia, and his sons, Ben Chaney and Tom Chaney; Mary's daughter Nancy Chaney, her husband Peter MacMillan, and their son Barrett, of Seattle; and Monica's step-grandchildren Noah and Brooklyn, whose visits Michael thoroughly enjoyed.

Services for Michael will be held Friday, Dec. 6, 1:30 pm, at First Congregational Church, Located at 2401 Cornwall Ave., Bellingham, WA.

Tribute Wall

SH

“ I am so sorry to hear that Michael Maier passed away. I worked with him at Tigor Title and Chicago Title. I moved from Alaska to Bellingham and he was always very helpful and nice to me. My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends. Sue (Meisinger) Hulsebus.

Sue Hulsebus - May 14, 2025 at 12:00 AM

LO

“ Mike hired me at Tigor in 1983. I am grateful that he had faith in me and gave me the chance to grow and learn and become the best me I could be. If he had not put his trust in me, I don't think I could have moved on to the bigger and better things that life had to offer me. He was a very kind soul and taught me so much. My condolences to you and your family. With much love and appreciation,

Lora O. - November 15, 2024 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ I worked with Michael at TICOR title for a few years before moving on to the medical field. I really enjoyed working with him, so kind and easy to talk with. I've thought of him often through the years and seeing this filled me with heavy heart. I am so sorry very sorry for your loss.

Rhonda Roe - November 15, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ *Not a Lovelier, Kinder or more Humble Person has ever walked this earth. I dearly appreciated the Time I spent with Michael and his equally Wonderful and Devoted Wife, Mary.
May Michael’s Family feel the Love and Prayers that Surround them!*

Claudia Callahan - November 15, 2024 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ *My condolences to the family. I had the privilege to work with Michael at Ticor back in the day and found him to be quite knowledgeable in what he did. He was a good boss and coworker as well. (I wasn’t there long as my own father was dying during my tenure there.)
My best, Elisa Claassen*

Elisa Claassen - November 14, 2024 at 12:00 AM