



Douglas A. Blackburn

January 11, 1944 - October 22, 2025

Lt. Douglas “Doug” Aaron Blackburn
1944 - 2025

Lt. Douglas “Doug” Aaron Blackburn, a dedicated firefighter and passionate historian of the fire service, passed away in La Center, Washington, on October 22, 2025. He was 81 years old. Born on January 11, 1944, in Salem, Oregon, Doug grew up with a strong sense of purpose and commitment to community. He graduated from Fort Vancouver High School and went on to pursue several post-secondary courses focused on firefighting and crash rescue— laying the foundation for a lifelong career in public service. Doug began his journey at Bemis Company, where he worked for ten years before answering a deeper calling. In 1976, he joined Clark County Fire District 6 as a professional firefighter. Over the years, through dedication and skill, he rose to the rank

of lieutenant. Doug served with distinction until his retirement in 2004. His colleagues remember him not only for his leadership, but also for his unwavering passion for the fire service. He had a passion to go fast and when he wasn't in a speeding fire engine going on a call, he raced sports cars. A fast Volkswagen named "Von Blackburn" and later a LaGrande #3, which would go 180 mph on the straight away at PIR. Doug was an avid collector of firefighting memorabilia and antique fire apparatuses. His remarkable collection included eleven hand and horse drawn vehicles dating back to before 1900. He devoted countless hours to researching and restoring these historic pieces, preserving an important part of firefighting history for future generations. Doug is survived by his longtime partner Catherine (Cathie) Bigelow; his daughter Paula Blackburn Strange; and his son Mark Blackburn, as well as his grand and great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brothers Jim, John, and sister Connie. A grave side service honoring Doug's life will be held at the Highland Cemetery, La Center, Washington, November 12, 2025 at 2 PM. May his memory bring comfort to those who knew him and inspiration to all who share his devotion to service and history.

Previous Events

Graveside

NOV 12. 2:00 PM (PT)

Highland Cemetery
39321 NE 31st Ave.
La Center, WA 98629
<https://www.clarkcemetery6.org/>