



## Jon Michael (Mike) Gaston

March 12, 1936 - January 3, 2025

On January 3, Mike Gaston passed away peacefully, surrounded by family members and with the love of family and friends in his heart. Mike was born in Michigan in 1936. At age 7, he was given a chemistry set, which he augmented with more toxic, noxious and flammable agents. Among other things, the set ignited a passion for the field, and he graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in chemical engineering and as a member of the Alpha Chi Sigma chemical engineering fraternity.

In high school, he lettered in track, football and basketball, played percussion in the pep band, and - most importantly -- met Nancy, the love of his life. Mike spent his career with Union Carbide, spending decades as a project manager/director. He and Nancy and their growing family moved frequently (including 4 years in Geneva, Switzerland) and travelled extensively - ultimately, Mike visited more than 80 countries.

Mike enjoyed travelling; tennis (with a wicked spin!); Rotary (he served as president of the Greater Clark County Rotary Club, and founded the Lunch Buddies program); politics (he was proud of encouraging civil discourse; served as county chair and received a lifetime achievement award from the Clark County Republican Party); artwork (he collected art, as well as painted, created stained glass and made his daughters awesome Halloween costumes); and his faith community (he was a church Elder and loved being a percussionist in the choir at First Presbyterian Church). The last few years, he lived bravely with esophageal cancer, deliberately making the most of every

minute of every day. He was grateful for the support of the Vancouver Clinic, the Legacy health system, Peace Health Hospice and the kindness and compassion of the health professionals. He faced his illness like he lived - with grace and a particularly wicked sense of humor.

Mike is survived by his wife of 65 years; daughters Cynthia (Richard), Kathleen (Rick), Beth (Rusty); grandson Michael and great-granddaughter Brooke. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Rotary Foundation, First Presbyterian Church of Vancouver, or a charity of your choice. Services will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 11 at First Presbyterian Church in Vancouver. For information about livestreaming the service, see: [www.vanfp.c.church](http://www.vanfp.c.church).

# Tribute Wall

DM

“ So sorry for your loss. He was a wonderful man. He will be missed by all of us who knew him. We stand beside you Nancy as you walk this new path.

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**Donna L Bashwiner, Michelle Fennimore, Lori McMillan** - January 07, 2025 at 12:00 AM

HR

“ With Sincere Sympathy Beth, we honor your memories of your Dad.

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**Hugs, Anita and Robin** - January 07, 2025 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ Jon has inspired people in ways he never imagined. We are so sorry for your loss but so thankful for the lessons he taught us.

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**Shelley, Rob, and Lucas** - January 06, 2025 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Funeral Chapel and Crematory

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**A Memorial Tree was planted for Jon Michael (Mike) Gaston** - January 06, 2025 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ We feel so very sorry for your loss. Mike inspired us with his caring, openness and positivity. We are grateful having had the opportunity to know him.

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**Mark Herman & Victor Pea** - January 06, 2025 at 12:00 AM