



# John Bezayiff

OCT 29, 1938 - SEP 17, 2024



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 6
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 7



# John Bezayiff

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## John Bezayiff Obituary

After enduring a long illness, John Bezayiff Jr, at the age of 85, passed away at home on September 17th 2024 with his family by his side. Among other things he was a father, friend and loving husband. Born as a sole surviving twin to Grace and John Bezayiff Sr. in Los Angeles California on October 29th 1938. He was a rare and unique human being with vast interests and knowledge. You could say he lived up to the ideals of a renaissance man. With a sportsman's interest in hunting and shooting. He was equally delighted to have his nose in a book or enjoying classical music and fine art.

John graduated from Clovis Union High School, Clovis California in 1957 and received an Associate's Degree in Art from Fresno City College in 1960. He then attended Fresno State College majoring in history. In October of 1962 he joined the United States Army during the Berlin Crisis. During his active service, he performed as an illustrator for the Joint Communications Agency at the Army's Nuclear Attack Center, site "R" Fort Ritchie Maryland. Where he held top secret clearance during the Cuban Missile Crisis. After separation from active duty, John served as an illustrator for the Psychological Operations Reserve Unit based in Fort MacArthur California. Where he was involved in the preparation of leaflets for the South East Asian Theater.

John was at times a very lucky man! While based in Maryland he was invited on a blind date with a young lady named Susan M. Pack. As fate would have it, the two were married on July 6th 1963 in McKeesport Pennsylvania. They had two sons Michael and Chris.

John joined McDonnell Douglas Aircraft in 1965 as a staff illustrator. Maintaining his military security clearance, he was able to work on projects such as the A1 SkyRaider, the A4 SkyHawk and on commercial aircraft. Most importantly the



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DC8, DC9, DC 10 and the C17. He also created graphic art for the Blue Angels A4's and helped restore the Douglas M2 mail plane now on permanent display at the Smithsonian. He was especially proud of the work he did creating the cockpit instrument panels for the DC10. While working in the aerospace industry, John earned a Bachelor's degree in history at California State College, Los Angeles in 1970. He later did graduate studies at California State College, Long Beach California and Advanced Human Factors studies at University of Michigan School

of Engineering. He taught art for Clackamas College's Community Education Program and has consulted on graduate student projects at the University of Ohio's School of Transportation Design. By invitation he has also been a speaker at numerous Portland Oregon Schools.

In 1978 John and his family relocated to West Linn Oregon. Where he worked as an Industrial Designer for Freightliner Corporation's Styling Studio. He went from aircraft design to long haul trucks. He was responsible for both exterior and interior design concepts across a broad range of Freightliner, American LaFrance and Sterling vehicles. John's artwork in connection to transportation is both displayed and in the collections of some major institutions and museums. These include the Museum of Flight, Seattle Washington, the Smithsonian's Aviation Museum in Washington DC, The United States Navy's Aviation Museum in Pensacola Florida. The Mercedes Museum Stuttgart, Germany and the Oregon Truck Museum Salam Oregon. He was not only an artist but had an interest in literature. He wrote two published novels, *Drummers Luck* and *Beyond The High Blue Mountains*.

John more than once said of his professional life "My entire life, I just drew things and they paid me for it". He retired from Freightliner in 2004, with a real zest for life. With Susan as his partner, they committed themselves to world travel. With trips to the Mediterranean, Spain, Morocco, Great Britain and Egypt, to name a few. John was not a selfish man, his commitment to service continued into his retirement years. During this period, he worked as a range safety officer for the Tri County Gun Club. Yet he found mentoring young people to be the most rewarding aspect of his life. He joined the United States Civil Air Patrol and served the Columbia Composite Squadron as their Aerospace Education Officer. John later earned a national award for his work in Aerospace Education and retired as Lieutenant Colonel.



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John was by no means a sum of his resume. He was much more than even an artist, writer, historian, sportsman, mentor, friend, leader, father, and husband. He was a renaissance man and a person who contributed to his times.

John is survived by his wife Susan and children Michael ( Theresa and Tristen ) and Christian Bezayiff, extended family Dean, Julie, Jasmine ( Bryan ) and Aaron. Brothers Matthew and David.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the American Cancer Society in his memory.

Service Schedule

Private interment at the Willamette National Cemetery on Tuesday, Oct.15th.

Celebration of Life

Saturday November 2nd 2024 2pm to 5pm.

1387 Tamarisk Drive

West Linn OR 97068



# Events


**John Bezayiff**

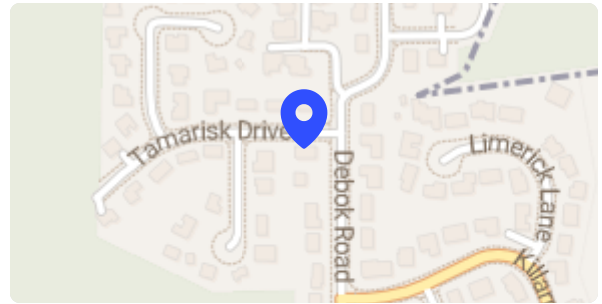
OCT 29, 1938 - SEP 17, 2024

## Celebration of Life


 **Saturday**, November 2, 2024

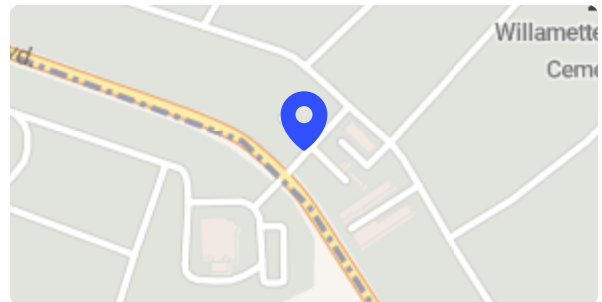
 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM PT

 **Family Home**  
1387 Tamarisk Drive, West Linn OR 97068



## Cemetery Details

 **Willamette National Cemetery**  
11800 Mt. Scott Blvd., Portland OR 97266





# Tribute Wall

**John Bezayiff**

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**Anonymous** sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Bezayiff family.



October 20 at 2:47 PM



**Jeff Hallen** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.



October 20 at 2:47 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Large Basket Garden to the Bezayiff family.



October 5 at 5:52 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses to the Bezayiff family.



September 27 at 6:09 AM



**Dan P Mitchikoff** posted:

John and I are second cousins, his grandmother Bezayiff and my grandfather Metchikoff being brother and sister. In his early years in Los Angeles he was close friends with my older brother Paul until they parted when John's family moved. Years back I started a family tree and I contacted John for help in which he did not waver but helped me get names and dates down correctly. John did not stop with this but kept up our correspondence sharing family stories and a descriptions of our grandparents and family which brought things to life for me. I was always awe struck of his talents and proud to call him my cousin. I know of his love for his wife Susan and their family and know how much he will be missed by all. May God grant you all comfort and peace in this time of sorrow.

September 26 at 8:28 AM



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**Frank Freer** posted:

Thank you for the update. I read it with profound regret both for the loss of a truly unique individual I was proud to call a friend and a fine man in general. I doubt that I will ever know another man like him. Please accept my deep sympathies and let me know if I can be of any assistance.....Frank

September 25 at 7:33 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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