

Richard Stafford Moss
Age 87

Spokane resident Richard Stafford Moss, 87, passed away Tuesday evening, July 14, at home with his family at his side. A memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, August 6, at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, located at 57th and Perry in Spokane.

Richard Moss was born July 5, 1922 in Spokane, Washington to Ernestine and Alfred Moss. He attended Irving and Hutton Elementary Schools and Lewis and Clark High School, graduating in 1940. His childhood summers were spent at his family's first cabin at Priest Lake in Northern Idaho. In 1941, Mr. Moss joined the Army Air Corps as a reserve officer and trained to fly a variety of aircraft, ultimately becoming an Air Corps Flight Instructor. In WWII, he flew troop and cargo carriers in Europe, and landed gliders in occupied territory in France.

Mr. Moss graduated from the University of Washington in 1949 with a degree in Civil Engineering. He married Mary Francis Thies in June of that year in Seattle. He founded the Spokane Moulding Corporation in 1949 and operated the business until his retirement in 1985. During those years Mr. Moss, along with his wife Mary, raised four children and spent countless hours volunteering time and energy toward promoting alpine ski racing in the Pacific Northwest and nationally. He was a past president of the Pacific NW Ski Association (PNSA) and Pacific Northwest Ski Education Foundation founder and past president, sat on the board of directors of the US Ski and Snowboard Association, active as a USSA Technical Delegate and official, a long-time Board member and past president of the Spokane Ski Racing Association, and was integral in developing the first electronic ski race timing systems. As an active member in PNSA, he was the recipient of the John Genoud and Ken Comfort awards. He traveled and officiated as a certified Federation Internationale de Ski (FIS) Technical Delegate for over ten years. Still active as a pilot, he enjoyed flying his Cessnas and kept up a lifelong interest in aviation. He was a long time member of the AOPA, the Prosperity Club, the Timber Products Manufacturing Association and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

His family writes: "Richard was a talented and multi-faceted man. He was guided by a profound sense of ethics and personal integrity, impressive and memorable to all who knew him. He loved the mountains and the natural environment and was happiest when spending time at his cabin at Priest Lake. He had a deep, abiding appreciation of wooden boats, fly fishing, fine wine, duck hunting and good dogs. After retirement, Richard developed a great affinity for Alaska and enjoyed cruising in Prince William Sound and touring the state. He could build anything he set his mind to, especially if it was wood; from docks and decks to cabins and kitchen cabinets. He instilled in his children a love of fishing, sports, dogs, outdoor life and fair play. He was an unforgettable husband and father, always there, at times demanding, yet forever fair and loving. He was the pillar at the center of our family, deeply loved, and he will be greatly missed."

Mr. Moss was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Arnold K. Moss. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Mary, of Spokane; son Stephen of Spokane; daughter and son-in-law, Lauren Moss and Edward Dupre of Girdwood, Alaska; daughter and son-in-law, Siri Moss and Charles Sassara of Anchorage, Alaska; son and daughter-in-law, Craig and Cherie Moss of Spokane; five grandchildren and six great grandchildren; cousin David Neal of Encinitas, California; and numerous cousins in Norway. Memorial contributions may be made to Morning Star Boys' Ranch, PO Box 8087, Spokane WA 99203; or to the Spokane Ski Racing Association, PO Box 678, Spokane WA 99210.