



Jack Thomas Coulson

October 1, 1934 - July 14, 2026

Jack Thomas “Tom” Coulson died peacefully at his residence on Tuesday, July 14, 2026. He was 91.

Jack was born October 1, 1934, in Renton, Washington, to the late Charlotte Bouldron Coulson and Raymond Bouldron. He was preceded in death by his sister, Charlene M. West, and his brother, William “Dick” Coulson.

Jack grew up in Renton, where he lived with his grandfather, whom he called Dad, and his grandmother, Jenny. After moving to Virginia with his mother and stepfather and graduating from high school, he joined the United States Navy and served aboard the aircraft carrier

USS Hornet. His naval career took him around the world, including service in the East China Sea during the uneasy truce that followed the Korean War. He was awarded the China Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal for his service.

After leaving the Navy, Jack earned a degree in electrical engineering from George Washington University and went on to build a remarkable career in the spaceflight industry. He designed and developed sophisticated spacecraft instruments, including magnetometers and ion mass spectrometers. His instruments flew aboard missions throughout the solar system, visiting every planet as well as the Moon and helping scientists greatly expand humanity’s

understanding of our universe.

Jack's contributions to space exploration earned him numerous honors from NASA and his employers, including a NASA Group Achievement Award. But while his professional accomplishments were extraordinary, those who knew him will remember him just as much for the person he was: curious, capable, adventurous, and deeply devoted to the people he loved.

Jack cherished time with family and friends. He enjoyed golfing, traveling, kayaking, and birding, always bringing his curiosity and enthusiasm to the world around him. Whether exploring distant planets or simply enjoying time with those closest to him, Jack lived a life of adventure.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Evelyn; his children, Sharon, Brenda, Diane, and Todd; his stepson, Terry; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held on October 1, 2026, which would have been Jack's 92nd birthday, at 11 a.m., with the family receiving visitors beginning at 10 a.m. at Fellows, Helfenbein and Newman Funeral Home, 106 Shamrock Road, Chester, MD 21619.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made to the Grasonville Volunteer Fire Department at Grasonville Volunteer Fire Department (mailing address for checks: 4128 Main St Grasonville, PO Box 457 Grasonville MD 21638) or Guide Dogs for the Blind at Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Upcoming Events

Visitation

OCT 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.
106 Shamrock Road
Chester, MD 21619

Memorial Service

OCT 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.
106 Shamrock Road
Chester, MD 21619

Tribute Wall

TB

“ Jack was a great guy, what an inspiration, I will never forget the dancing at the holiday parties or him coming into the lab with papers in hand to check with Lowell.
He was profoundly one of those responsible for starting the many Ideas family success stories.
Also remember my knee running into underwater engine block in front of Jack's house.
Cheers!

Tom Baden - August 28 at 10:58 AM

EB

“ I had the absolute pleasure of taking care of Mr. Coulson's discharge needs at Encompass Health Rehab Hospital in Middletown, De as his Case Manager. He and his wife, Evelyn were soooo sweet and kind. He will never be forgotten and will always be in our hearts. Erica Berry, Case Manager.

Erica Berry` - August 27 at 10:24 AM

BB

“ Jack, one of my kayaking buddies, now perhaps one of two left. He and his wife were and are very good neighbors. Older than me he was a good mentor for the shape and the turns of getting to the greatest adventures life has. He was a good listener. A good technical investigator.

A storm came by and took my Kayak away. I rescued it, and a second storm took it away again. This time it was way out there. Jack reviewed my calculation for how far it was lost and keep track of it. I prepared, on Christmas day 2024 with 1,000 ft of rope, it was retrieved.

It's been a while, Jack is now lost. Perhaps we can spot him once in a shadow on the corner of an eye. Remember something he said. I'll get back to kayaking, but he will be missed. It's one of those things 1,000 foot of can't bring back.



Bob G. Beaman - August 25 at 09:09 AM

JH

“ I will always remember Jack's remarkable smile. Love and condolences to the family.

Judi Hall

Judi Hall - July 15 at 09:05 PM