

**Gerald 'Gerry' Tomren, ET2(SS) G Dates onboard unknown  
July 4, 1943 – July 4, 2016**



TOMREN Gerald, passed away on July 4, 2016, his 73rd birthday, at his home in Kahlotus, WA. Gerry was born, July 4, 1943 to Arnold and June Tomren, in Seattle Washington. He grew up in Bremerton, and graduated from East Bremer-ton High School. He briefly attended college in Wenatchee, before enlisting in the Navy. A considerable portion of his service was aboard the ballistic missile submarine USS George Washington, one of the first submarines to be retrofitted to nuclear power. He sometimes joked that he joined the navy to see the world, then volunteered for sub duty - and got to see it through the periscope twice. His naval career took him to overseas ports in Japan, Scotland, and across the US. While stationed in Connecticut in November 1966, he was introduced to Kathleen Boardman. They married in 1968 and moved to Washington State, where they raised four sons. Gerry took a position at the WPPSS nuclear power plant (N-reactor), and moved the family to Yakima. In his off time, he became active as a volunteer firefighter and EMT at the Terrace Heights fire department. Here, he would occasionally allow his sons the privilege of cleaning the fire station, or removing cheat grass from his socks. He did have a sense of humor. During this time, he also completed an associate's degree at YVCC. Seeking more stable employment, he joined the US Army Corps of Engineers as a power plant operator. He trained at John Day Dam, commuting from Yakima or staying in a camper in Rufus, Oregon. He later found a permanent position at Lower Monumental Dam, and moved the family to Kahlotus in 1985. In the 2000's, his desire to further assist our country led him to take a civilian position with the Army in Afghanistan, performing logistics duties for military installations. He served on two of these tours, returning to his position at the dam each time he returned. Gerry looked forward to morning coffee with the local farmers where they would exchange quips back and forth. He was active in his sons' school and athletic activities, spent several years as a member of the school board, was active in the Kahlotus Fire District (where his sons let him clean his own socks), and was a well-known regular at several local restaurants. He loved to travel and visit new places, and took his family on several cross-country trips, visiting many cities, landmarks, beaches, and amusement parks across the country. These trips often included an accidental visit to the wrong side of the tracks - like driving a 30-foot motor home into Harlem, and a rented white Cadillac into Chicago's south side. He had season passes to amusement parks right up to the last couple years, and enjoyed reminding his sons that he had ridden some of the biggest, fastest roller coasters that they've only seen on TV. He will be remembered for always being willing to talk to anyone, and for "always going". He had been asked many times by family to retire, but he always felt he needed to be useful somewhere. Despite declining health, he continued working at the dam where he already had more than thirty years of service. On his 73rd birthday, July 4, 2016, he passed away in his home. He is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Kathleen Tomren, his sons Michael & Shawna TomrenScott & Jessie Tomren; Patrick & Valorie Tomren; and Steven & Holly Tomren; 7 (soon to be 8) grandchildren; brother Lee Tomren (Janet); sister Barbara Andersen (David); and numerous nieces and nephews.