

Daniel (Dan) Thomas O'Connell

June 13, 1953-June 30, 2023

Dan O'Connell, 70, passed away from natural causes on June 30, 2023 in San Angelo, Texas. He had recently moved there after residing in Joseph, Oregon, since 2010 and previously was a long time resident of Klamath Falls, Oregon.



Dan was born in Eugene, Oregon, on June 13, 1953, to Thomas and Retha (Kirkpatrick O'Connell Walker). He graduated from Willamette High School in Eugene with the class of 1971.

After a long corporate career in management with the Radio Shack Organization, he spent time pursuing his many interests.

He studied archaeology and volunteered doing archaeological work with the Bureau of Land Management in Klamath Falls and various other organizations.

As a young man, Dan developed a love of amateur "HAM" radio after catching the bug from his father who was a radio operator during WWII. Dan was an active, respected operator winning many international awards in the field. Under the call sign of W7TDZ, he made friends around the world and will be missed by all who know him. He also was a respected designer of HAM radio antennas.

From an early age, Dan had an avid interest in aeronautics, leaning toward German aircraft. As a young man he quickly moved beyond packaged model airplane kits, designing and fabricating his own planes and rockets using balsa wood and other media. He also had many hours of training as a private pilot.

Dan's passion for aircraft continued into adulthood and in 2005, after years of intense research, Dan published the book "Messerschmitt Me 262, The Production Log 1941-1945." Dan was recognized internationally as an expert on the aircraft. His book is considered by many to be the premier reference work about the world's first operational jet fighter and is often cited in articles about the aircraft.

Dan is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Terry and Ingrid O'Connell of Bend, Oregon, and his sister and brother-in-law, Nancy and Robert Worsham of Ohio. Additionally, he is survived by one niece and three nephews. Dan was preceded in death by his beloved Jean Marie Sabatos of New Jersey

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Dan will be interred at the Enterprise Cemetery in Enterprise, Oregon, and a memorial will be planned at a later date.