

## Obituary for Fred Axberg

Oscar F. Axberg, known for most of his life and to most people as Fred, was born to his parents, Oscar and Effie Axberg, on April 14, 1929. His father, an immigrant from Sweden, worked in the timber industry until the Great Depression shut everything down. Oscar met and married Effie and helped raise her children from a previous marriage, and Fred was born, the last and youngest of her children. The family moved around “staying half a step ahead of creditors and lawmen,” for the first dozen years of his life. Then came World War II, during which time the economy had begun improving. The family settled in Seattle, and Fred found himself working in his aunt’s candy factory for a few years before striking out to find “better things to do.” He went to work for a seaplane service located on Lake Union where the owner took him under his belt and taught him to fly. Fred became one of the nation’s youngest licensed pilots.

Fred joined the US Army and served in the infantry toward the end of the war in Europe and served several tours there in the late 1940s and early 1950s. He married his high school sweetheart while in the service, and he and Eileen had two boys, Duane and Keith. They divorced and Fred remarried, marrying Caryl in 1961. She had one daughter, Christina from a previous marriage, and Fred and she produced a daughter, Suzette. Fred and Caryl raised the four children and were active members of St. Luke’s (Ballard), Good Shepherd (Federal Way), and St. Matthew’s (Brown’s Point, Tacoma). They also have 8 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Fred was a Teamster, working for a few years with the Seattle Public Works Department, and later driving for a variety of bakeries and linen service companies. He went into semi-retirement, working as a mechanic and later as a bus driver for the Federal Way School District during semi-retirement in his sixties. Fred was widowed in 1998 when Caryl, his wife of thirty-seven years, passed away from cancer. Fred continued to live at home, retiring from driving school buses in his late 60s. He passed away shortly after his 90th birthday, in 2019. He was preceded in death by Caryl after she lost her struggle to cancer in the late 1990s, and then Christina, his step-daughter.

Fred was buried from St. Matthew’s in a service presided over by the Rev. Kendall Haynes, and his remains are interred with Caryl’s at Mountain View Cemetery, Auburn.