

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LOVE OF

Jack L. Krefting

January 12, 1942 - June 29, 2025





Jack Krefting was a man of exceptional talent and immense kindness and will be sorely missed by all that knew him. He will be remembered as a good man, who was always quick with a joke, a talented musician, and a doting husband. He was a master of his trade and a genuine professional. He overcame difficult battles with cancer and a liver transplant without losing his capacity for sharing a kind word and a smile. Even at the end of his life, he remained thoughtful of others, responding to the poking and prodding of nurses with “my pleasure” and used poetic language to describe and downplay his maladies. He was always sweet and maintained his humor and acumen for dramatic speech until the end. He will be forever missed but leaves behind a legacy of music and love.



Jack was born to Albert “Roland” and Artance Krefting on January 12, 1942. Jack’s parents and 2-year-old sister, Carol, were living in Peru, where Jack’s father worked as a mining engineer. Albert stayed in Peru for work while

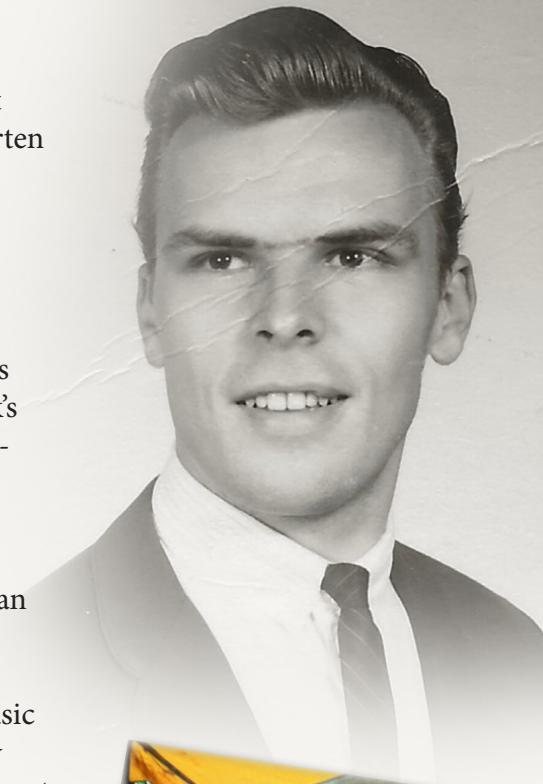
Artance and Carol traveled home to Minnesota for Jack’s birth. They later returned and rejoined him in Peru, where they stayed until Jack’s father was drafted into the US Navy as an officer engineer for the Naval Construction Force, a.k.a. Seabees. Jack, Carol, and their mother returned to Minneapolis for the remainder of WWII while his dad served in the Pacific.

After the war, the family moved to Kirkland, a suburb of Seattle, where Jack’s father designed and built houses, and his baby brother, Paul, was soon born. The family then returned to South America, this time to Bolivia, when Jack was 5 years old – his father had signed one more work contract to help pay for the house he had designed and built for the family. High in the Andes, the children were home-schooled and had only their siblings for playmates. Carol had started school in the States and learned to read by bringing books home.



Jack picked up reading naturally and quickly moved from reading Carol's first-grade primers to anything he could get his hands on. Because of this, he was able to skip Kindergarten and go straight to first grade. Jack also had an exceptional memory for spelling any word he had ever seen in print.

A political uprising occurred in Bolivia in 1949 that was related to events surrounding a mining disaster, and the government ordered the arrest of union leaders. The miners retaliated by taking foreign-employees hostage – sadly, Jack's father was among the casualties of that uprising. At 7-years-old, Jack and his family escaped Bolivia with the help of Salvation Army missionaries. The family moved to Seattle, where his mother later married Jack's stepfather, Bud, and gave birth to little sister Jeanie. The family later moved to San Diego, where Jack spent the rest of his childhood.



Jack was captured by a love of music at an early age. He learned to play the piano and many wind instruments, with French horn his favorite, and also sang, with his bass tones developing quite young. He was hired by the Starlight Opera Company in San Diego, where he was the youngest male vocalist they had appointed to date.



Jack started college at what is now Point Loma Nazarene University, where he met Reid Dienhart, a sophomore and lead tenor in a male cappella quartet created for fundraising gigs for the school. Jack and Reid sang together, worked on their cars, and became best friends for life. Since Reid's family lived in Arizona, Jack invited him to his family's home for Thanksgiving. Reid and Carol hit it off, and Reid became Jack's brother-in-law when he and Carol married. Jack transferred to San Diego State University, where the instrumental music program had more to offer. He completed his degree and went on to become the choral director at El Capitan High School. He later served as Musical Director and teacher for Laguna Beach High School, and led the Laguna Festival Chorale as musical director. He met his first wife, Judy, and they had sons Karl and Brian.





Jack's interest in all aspects of the piano continued to grow, and he eventually took a job in Cincinnati with Baldwin Piano Company. His job as a piano trouble shooter took him to many parts of the world. He later became the proud owner of J. Krefting Pianos, which he founded in 1984, around the same time as he adopted his son Cyrus with his wife Sally. Through his business, Jack found his passion in selling as well as restoring pianos with exceptional care and precision. His skill and craftsmanship were matched only by his love for his work. Unlike many today who use technology, Jack had the rare ability to tune pianos by ear. He built a reputation as an absolute professional and perfectionist – one client called him “the nicest piano tuner on the planet.” His other areas of expertise included repairs and consultations, appraisals, and installing player piano units.

He assisted many musical artists from the symphony orchestra and the opera in such places as Cincinnati Music Hall, as well as served A-list musicians who played at Riverbend Music Center. Jack authored over 300 articles over the course of his career as a skilled piano technician while mentoring many in the industry. Jack was awarded the Presidential Citation from the Piano Technician Guild for his talents and willingness to share his knowledge while elevating the industry technology.

Jack met his wife, Terri, at the Jim Beam Stakes at Turfway Park in 1994 and thus began a beautiful friendship, love, and partnership. Jack married his Princess Terri in 1998 and treated her like a queen all the way to the end. Terri became a partner in the piano business, and they liked to stay up late so Jack could play piano and sing for her.



Jack loved all things about cars and religiously read any car magazines he came across. He liked to drive a stick shift and owned several sports cars over the years, including a hunter green vintage MG and a bright yellow Corvette.

He and Terri also enjoyed sailing in the early years of their relationship, although they later moved on to speedboats and spent many long days on the lakes of Kentucky aboard the affectionately christened "Princess Terri."

Jack and Terri loved to travel. They were especially fond of the Caribbean and visited many resorts. They traveled to the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic, as well as embarked on various European journeys. On a trip to Japan for a Yamaha piano, Jack watched locals select fish from a tank and fillet it at the table front, all the while he was craving his eggs over easy – he would always make a puckered fish face while he told this story.

His nieces and nephews adored him and said he was their favorite. He could never resist making a face at a young child. He'd puff out his cheeks and make his eyes open really wide or pucker his lips like a fish and make fish gill movements with his hands.





Jack liked to cook, and his potato salad was often requested at summer parties. He loved eggs over easy, bacon, ice cream, fresh fruit, and way too much salt on his food. Jack and Terri loved to go out to eat as often as they could and adored their beautiful and historic Tudor home in Crestview Hills. Jack enjoyed keeping the landscape in excellent condition, and in 2000, they hosted a beautiful outdoor wedding for Terri's daughter, Amy, and her future husband, Ken, in their gardens.



Jack was a staunch Republican who kept up with the news and, in his retirement, wrote a novel that he had hoped to get published. He was known for writing long poems, and sometimes even plays, and was especially amused by (often dirty) limericks that he would recite with a laugh.



Jack died on June 29, 2025 with Terri at his side, leaving the world a better place for his having lived so fully and lovingly. His loving wife, Terri, and stepdaughters, Amy, Emily, and Sarah, will remember and celebrate a life well-lived that brought joy to many.







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