



The

Broadcasters' Desktop Resource

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... edited by Barry Mishkind – the Eclectic Engineer

Carl T. Jones

1923 – 2016

Carl T. Jones passed away on Sunday afternoon, January 10th, at the Solomons Nursing Center in Solomons, Maryland. He was 92.



Carl T. Jones

October 31, 1923 – January 10, 2016

Carl was born on October 31, 1923 in Indianapolis, Indiana, the son of Otis T. and Parthena Jones.

Carl moved with his parents to Washington, DC in 1937 when his father, Otis, took a job at the Washington Navy Yard as a machinist. He graduated from Eastern High School and studied engineering at George Washington University until he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in October, 1942. While in the Navy he studied aeronautical engineering at Loyola University and the University of Georgia.

Carl earned his aviator wings on May 12, 1944, and married the love of his life, Doris, on the same day in the Navy Chapel in Pensacola, Florida.

As a Naval Aviator and Ensign, he was assigned to the South Pacific during World War II flying the Douglas Dauntless SBD dive bomber at Guadalcanal and later, at bases in the Marshall-Gilbert Islands. He was later assigned to the Battleship USS Tennessee where he was a catapult pilot flying the Sikorsky OS2U Kingfisher. After the war, Carl obtained a scheduled air carrier commercial pilot's license.

Carl attended Catholic University from 1946 to 1949 and began employment with John Barron Consulting Radio Engineers in Washington, DC as a Radio Engineer, working full-time during summers and part time during the school year. Upon earning his Professional Engineering Certificate, he began employment with the Federal Communications Commission in 1949 where he was heavily involved in the final allocation of UHF and VHF Television channel assignments throughout the U.S.

While with the FCC, Carl served as technical advisor during the Commission's hearings to select the final color television standard. The resulting color standard was in use by the television industry until 2009 when a conversion to a new digital transmission standard was implemented.

Carl left the FCC in 1951 and began work with the Federal Civil Defense Administration. During his time with Civil Defense, Carl was involved in the selection of a site in the Blue Ridge Mountains to

relocate certain branches of the Federal Government in case of an attack on Washington DC. He was responsible for the design of a multiple hop microwave communications link from the selected site to the White House.

In 1953, Carl partnered with George Gautney to form Gautney & Jones Communications Engineers. While with Gautney & Jones, he worked on hundreds of radio and television transmission system projects specializing in directional antenna design, adjustment and licensing. Carl's clients included: Capital Cities Communications, the New York Times, Taft Broadcasting, Newhouse Broadcasting, Blue Ridge Broadcasting (Billy Graham), Kaiser Broadcasting, Belo Broadcasting, United Broadcasting, Hatch Stations, Buckley Broadcasting and numerous others. Although the majority of his time was spent working on the design of Radio and Television Station transmission systems for the Broadcast Industry, Carl continued his work as a contractor for Civil Defense and his accomplishments included: the design of the Washington Area Warning System, the design of a Radiological Monitoring and Reporting System, and the design of a National Radio Warning System (the DIDS System).

After George Gautney's retirement in 1976, the firm continued under Carl's direction as Carl T. Jones Associates and later as Carl T. Jones Corporation. In addition to continuing his engineering consulting work for the Broadcast Industry, Carl played a key role in the design and implementation of a ten-station initial connectivity emergency communications network for the US Air Force known as the Ground-wave Emergency Network ("GWEN").

Carl retired in 1985 due to health reasons but maintained a keen interest in Broadcast Engineering for the remainder of his life.

In addition to his consulting work, Carl owned and operated radio stations in Clovis, California and Prince Frederick, Maryland and was part owner of 50,000 Watt Radio Station KDWN in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Carl was a Professional Engineer in the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of Nevada, a Life Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers and a Member Emeritus and past President of the Association of Federal Communications Consulting Engineers.

Carl was preceded in death by his beloved wife Doris Frances Jones who died in 2011 after 67 years of marriage. Carl is survived by his daughter Sharon Lester and her husband Joe, his daughter Donna Fabian and her husband Lou, his son Carl T. (Tom) Jones, Jr. and his wife Ellen; grandchildren Jacob Jones, Molly Jones, Matthew Jones, Alexander Fabian, Christopher Fabian, and Casey Fabian; and great grandchildren Madeleine Jones, Gregory Jones, Samantha Jones, Brendan Jones, Nathaniel Jones and TJ Jones.

A private family service is planned.

Donations can be made to: **Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church**
P.O. Box 560, 90 Alexander Lane, Solomons, MD 20688

Our thanks to Tom Jones for the information about his father.

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