

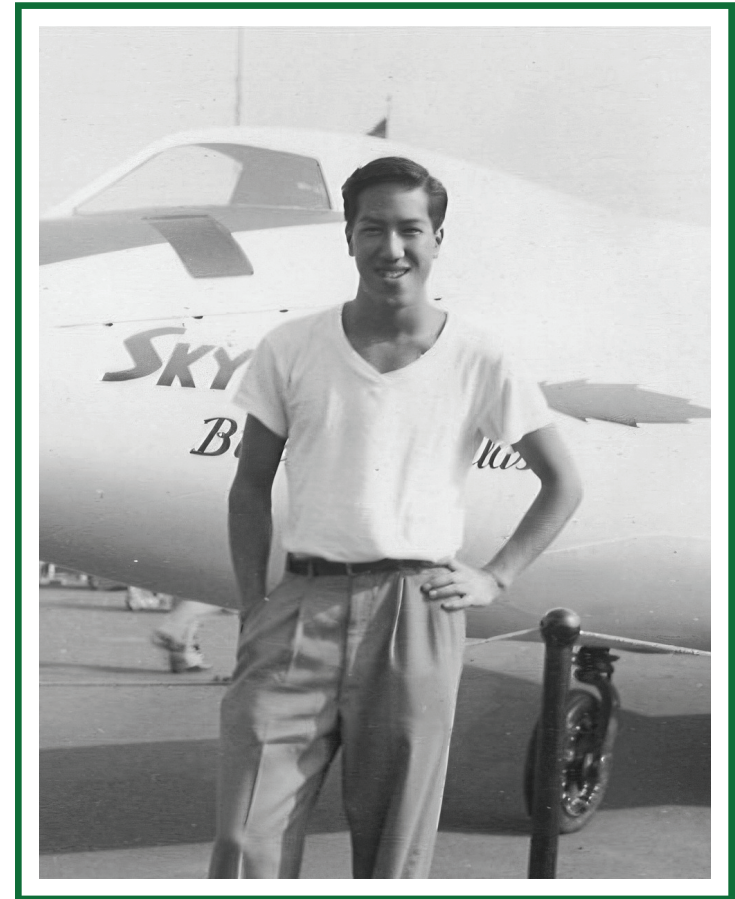
designed the shield in two weeks. By his calculations the shield would protect the missile from burning up upon re-entry into the earth's atmosphere and keep it intact until it reached its target. Teller was initially dubious, but subsequent trials with a test missile and a dummy bomb at Cape Canaveral verified Dick's solution. Older brother Shelley proudly asserted, "Dick helped design the heat shield for Teller's nuclear weapons, which were major deterrents that contributed to the ending of the Cold War. I would call Dick's work for Teller a cosmic achievement — after all, how many people can say that their brains helped end a war!"

Dick married Lillian Gee on June 20, 1954, and settled in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he began work at Lockheed Missiles and Space Company in Mountain View. There, Dick developed the UGM-27 Polaris missile, which was deployed by the US Navy in the 1960s as the first submarine-launched ballistic missile. He was invited to report on his scientific research at the 1962 Third International Rarefied Gas Dynamics Symposium in Paris, France.

In 1969, Dick helped his wife, Lillian, establish Alpha Beacon Christian School in San Mateo, California, and, not surprisingly, taught math and physics. While he worked on another original aeronautics theory during his spare time, his work at the school enabled him to live a balanced life and use his talents in support of Christian education.

At home, Dick and Lillian raised their children to live a life honoring to God. Their five children — Dean, Kim, Faye, Glenn, and Lynne — and nine grandchildren — Bethany, Hannah, Sarah, Jordan, Rachel, Micah, Caleb, Alisha, and Kayla — all have realized how much God has blessed them with a legacy that will carry on for years to come. Whether it was advancing the nation's aerospace defense capabilities or encouraging young people through science, spirituality, and sports, Dick's life achievements form an inspiring example of a deep-thinking, dedicated man who loved and served the Lord Jesus Christ, his nation, and his loved ones.

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR



Richard Muin Dek Mark

December 31, 1926 - August 20, 2025

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome & Prayer

Chris Chu

Scripture Reading

Psalm 23

Lynne Wong and Lillian Mark

Worship

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” and “Be Thou My Vision”

Bethany Chan

Life Reflection

“A Faithful Family Man”

Dean and Kim Mark

Tributes

CHILDREN

Kim Mark, Faye Chu, Glenn Mark, and Lynne Wong

GRANDCHILDREN

Hannah Chu, Sarah Lum, Rachel Wong, Micah Wong,
Caleb Wong, Alisha Mark, and Kayla Mark

DAUGHTER- AND SON-IN-LAW

Mary Mark and Chris Chu

SISTER

Mirian Lee

Message of Hope

Tommy Lum

Slideshow

Closing Prayer of Thanksgiving

Tim Wong

LIFE REFLECTION

A Faithful Family Man

Richard “Dick” Mark was born in Seattle, Washington, on December 31, 1926. He is the third son of six brothers and one sister.

Growing up in a large family had its challenges, but it also helped carve out their own identities. Dick was the quiet, but studious one. At Garfield High School, he asked his brother Wing for help with proving theorems. Wing advised, “Prove it yourself.” Dick called Wing’s “help” a turning point, as he realized then that he needed to engage his brain to solve problems, a principle he applied to all aspects of life. In another pivotal moment, Dick remembered gazing out of the classroom window during his junior year at Garfield and seeing a Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress. “I saw that airplane and thought, ‘I want to learn how to make those things!’”

And learn he did. Hitchhiking daily to the University of Washington campus in his ROTC uniform, sometimes with a brother in tow, he earned his BS and MS degrees in aeronautical engineering while working at UW’s Kirsten Wind Tunnel laboratory. World War II was raging, and Dick’s UW team helped the US military test rugged B-17 mockup bombers. In 1954 Dick earned his PhD in aeronautics and mathematics at the California Institute of Technology. His dissertation, “Laminar Boundary Layers on Slender Bodies of Revolution in Axial Flow,” presented his investigations of the shapes of objects capable of traveling faster than the speed of sound.

Fresh out of Caltech, Dick was hired as a member of a think tank at Convair/General Dynamics, an aircraft manufacturing company. After each day’s focused work, he slept with a notepad on his bed stand, should any solutions come to mind in the middle of the night. Dick collaborated with renowned nuclear scientist Edward Teller (“Father of the Hydrogen Bomb”) and was tasked with designing the heat shields for a ballistic missile capable of carrying a hydrogen bomb and traveling a range of 5,000 miles. Asked to work quickly, Dick