



Max David Jones



Max was born on **September 25, 1937** in **Bisbee, Arizona** to:
David Adam Jones (1894 — 1981) and **Gladys Ornett Barham Jones (1908 — 1979)**.

A longtime resident of **Benson, Arizona**, passed away **September 6, 2016** at the age of **78**. Max fought a courageous battle against Alzheimer's for several years, yet succumbed peacefully at Brookdale, a senior living community that specializes in Alzheimer's and Dementia care on Tanque Verde Road, in Tucson. Brookdale and Agape Hospice provided a loving and caring environment during his stay.



Max graduated from **Patagonia High School** in **1955**, where he excelled in athletics, 4-H, and scouting. He earned his **Eagle Scout** in 1955.



After high school graduation and a brief stint in the Army ROTC program at the University of Arizona, he joined the United States **NAVY** in March, 1956. He earned the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class and worked as a Boatswain Mate. His proudest Navy moment was his service during the Taiwan Straits Crisis on the USS PINE ISLAND. It was a story that he loved to share and wore his hat with great pride!

After his Honorable Discharge from the Navy in March, 1962, he attended Western New Mexico University, earning his Bachelor's Degree of Arts in 1961 and his Master's Degree of Arts in 1964. After college graduation, Max worked as a Vocational Education Teacher in Patagonia and drove the school bus.

Max loaded up his family, for an adventure of a lifetime, and moved to Guam and then to the Micronesian Islands of Palau and Saipan. He worked as the Principle of the Guam Trade & Technology School, the Director of the Micronesian Occupational Center on Palau, and the Director of Vocational Education of the entire Micronesian Islands in Saipan.

In 1972, Max and Ina with children Mindy, Troy, and Shelly returned to Arizona.

Max established Jones-Wilson Insurance & Investments, Inc. with his father-in-law, Leland Wilson. Another noteworthy accomplishment is Max's induction into the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of Arizona Hall of Fame for his superior career achievements. Ina, eventually, joined him in the business and worked as the bookkeeper.



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He was also a Benson Fire Department volunteer for **22** years, serving **as the CHIEF for 12 years, 1982-1994.**

Max also volunteered as an Assistant Boy Scout Master for several years and enjoyed mentoring many young Benson boys.



He joined [Nogales Lodge, N° 11, F&AM, in Nogales, Arizona](#), where he was

Initiated — Entered Apprentice: 1° : **February 5, 1964**

Passed — Fellow Craft, 2° : **March 20, 1964**

Raised — Master Mason, 3° : **April 22, 1964**



Max was a Senior Life Member of [San Pedro Lodge, N° 55, F&AM, Benson, Arizona](#).

His father-in-law, **Leland Wilson**, was the [Most Worshipful Grand Master of Arizona, 1959](#) and Charter Member of [San Pedro Lodge, N° 55, F&AM, Benson, Arizona](#).

As many would agree, Max had an extraordinary life and gave selflessly of himself to his family and community. Teaching was a passion but he ended up excelling with his management and people skills in business. One of Max's biggest joys in life was traveling around the world with his wife and family. Their adventures are legendary. He also enjoyed camping and jeeping. Max will be remembered for the love of his 1948 Willy's Jeep "Old Blue." He knew every dirt road in Arizona and he could also be found scouring the railroads for date nails. He has accumulated quite the prized collection. Max had a sentimental side and a strong sense of family. He spent hours combing and compiling genealogy records, visiting cemeteries, finding long lost relatives, and telling his children stories. Max didn't know a stranger and was beloved and respected by many. He often greeted people with "Que Paso" and today we respond with great sadness, "Adios Viejo." That would make him smile!

Max is survived by his wife, of **57** years, **Ina Lee Jones**; daughter, Mindy Jones Sherman; son, Troy Jones; and daughter, Shelly Jones Snell (Ben); step-daughter Debbie Noonan; and honorary son, Toby Smith. He also is survived by grandchildren, Drew Jones (Ashlee), Brent Sherman (Twyla), Megan Muzi (Tim), Jessica Sherman (Chase), Zachary Snell, Ethan Snell; step grandchildren Christine Noonan, Lauren Noonan and honorary grandchildren Ryan Smith (Kirsten), and Brittany Smith. Max was blessed with great granddaughters, Brenley and Karsyn Smith; and honorary granddaughter Rylynn Smith.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Richardson's Remembrance Center in Benson, Arizona. A Memorial service took place on September, 10, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at Community Presbyterian Church, Benson, Arizona. His burial followed at Gatlin & Jones Cemetery, at 1:30 p.m., Patagonia, Arizona. The Last Call (Fireman's Honor) and Military Honors were presented.



Donations to the Last Alarm Foundation at <http://lastalarmfoundation.com/> or the Alzheimer's Association at <http://alz.org/> are welcomed by the family.



See burial list here → [Gatlin Jones Cemetery](#), Patagonia, Santa Cruz County, Arizona