



## Curtis H. Bechtel

July 2, 2021

Curtis Bechtel was born July 9, 1959, in Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii, one month before Hawaii became a state. His middle name, Hanale, is Hawaiian for Henry. He was the fourth of five children born to Dale and Winnie Bechtel of Columbus, Ohio. Dale was a violinist and teacher, and was concertmaster of the Honolulu Symphony. Winnie worked in microbiology and played viola in the symphony. Curtis fondly remembered his early childhood in Honolulu, and returned to visit family many times as an adult.

When Curtis was 10, he, his mother, and two youngest sisters moved from Honolulu to the Mainland. Their belongings, including a 1930 Ford Model A, were shipped by ocean liner to Victoria, Canada, and they made the long drive in the Model A from Canada to the Los Angeles area.

Curtis began playing trumpet when he was 12. Some early musical experiences included performing in the New Year's Day Rose Parade, and the Disneyland Christmas Parade as a Marching Tin Soldier. In 1976 Curtis was selected to participate in the 60-piece America's Youth In Concert which toured Europe. His love of music and trumpet performance was a passion that continued his whole life.

Curtis attended California State University, Northridge as a music major. There, in 1979 he met his future wife Leslie Taylor, also a music major. After

three years, Curtis changed his major to engineering and spent three years at Golden West Junior College, before transferring to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Curtis and Leslie were married in 1985, and he graduated in 1986 with a Bachelor's of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

Curtis was blessed to have worked for 34 years in engineering, with almost 30 years at Mafi-Trench (later AtlasCopco), in Santa Maria. He was a gifted engineer and patient teacher who became a mentor to many co-workers during his career. His job in new equipment sales allowed him to travel to China, Korea, Europe, India, Trinidad and Tobago, Dubai, and throughout the US, among other places. Curtis' easy personality and witty sense of humor, and his deep understanding of and dedication to his work, earned many long-time friends in the industry.

Curtis was a member of the SLO Trumpet Alliance, San Luis Chamber Orchestra and SLO Wind Orchestra. In addition to music, Curtis loved sailing his boat in Morro Bay. He had a natural ability to read wind, tide and other sailing conditions, and was a safe and sure captain, always willing to take out family or friends for a day sail. Curtis had many other interests and hobbies including stained glass, tennis, jogging, crossword puzzles and tinkering.

Curtis was a devoted father and grandfather; a funny, caring, fun-loving, sentimental, and kind-hearted man. He passed away at home on July 2, 2021. Curtis leaves behind Leslie, and their children Cole and Royce, grandchildren Noah and Claire, siblings Karen, Mark, Lorna and Sarah, and other family members, friends and co-workers. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Leave comments for the family at [www.reisfamilymortuary.net](http://www.reisfamilymortuary.net)

# Tribute Wall

TR

“ Thinking of Curtis and wishing the family my condolences.

Tim Ryan - July 03, 2025 at 08:03 PM

CL

“ I was shocked and saddened to learn of Curtis' passing. Great guy, always made me laugh. I didn't know that he was a month younger than me. He is greatly missed.

Chris Lee

Chris Lee - August 01, 2021 at 03:00 PM

LH

“ Spring break- a sailing trip to Catalina Island and scuba diving around the island - What an adventure 🌴

Best Wishes,  
Len H



Len H - July 30, 2021 at 12:21 PM

LH

“ Many thanks for great school break trips!

Len H



Len H - July 30, 2021 at 12:16 PM

CA

“ *Curtis was not just a gentleman. He was also a gentle man. Loved his wife Leslie, his sons and grandchildren. I will miss our talks. Thank you for our friendship Curtis. A hui hou kakou.*

*Cat*

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**cathy** - July 18, 2021 at 11:00 PM

VC

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Vaughn Corden** - July 17, 2021 at 09:43 PM

VC

*We made this video when Winnie, Curtis' mother, passed away a few years ago. Somehow, it seems appropriate for Curtis, too. He worked hard to get that Model A back on the road. I'll never forget my friend, Curtis, and the many memories we made together. Rest in peace, my brother.*

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**Vaughn Corden** - July 17, 2021 at 09:46 PM

LB

*Thank you Vaughn! You two had a special friendship.*

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**Leslie Bechtel** - July 17, 2021 at 11:38 PM

KB

*As Curtis' first cousin, I remember several "adventures" as kids. One involved his father Dale, Curtis and I going on a hike in a pine forest that my grandfather had planted years before. We got hopelessly lost and ended up miles away. We finally came upon a highway, had to flag a car down to take us to a pay phone to call my Dad, Bob to come pick us up. He said how in the hell did you end up here? As a kid, I thought it was great fun getting lost with my uncle and cousin from California. I always thought he was the coolest guy because he was from California and I was a hick from Ohio. I now live in Washington. You will be missed Curtis. You were an intelligent, talented gentle soul. Hope to see you again some day.*

**Kurt Bechtel** - July 28, 2021 at 05:40 PM

DK

*I don't know why, but I recently had a hankering to find out what ever became of Curtis, whom I knew during our time together at CSUN. I think we bonded there because of our backgrounds, Hawaii and Alaska, made us a little different than the rest of the students Whenever things went sideways in the bands we played in, I could always sense his eyerolling back in the trumpet suction and I knew that later he would have something funny to say about it. That was many years ago, but I still remember what a great and interesting guy he was. I am sorry to see he is no longer with us, but it makes me very happy to see what a fulfilling life he went on to lead.*

*Dave Kiffer  
Ketchikan, Alaska*

**Dave Kiffer** - April 21, 2022 at 08:33 PM

KR

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



**Kelly Royer** - July 17, 2021 at 07:25 PM

DR

*Grateful for the memories shared. We will miss him.*

**Dennis and Kelly Royer** - July 17, 2021 at 07:40 PM

LB

*Thank you Dennis and Kelly. He loved our grandkids.*

**Leslie Bechtel** - July 17, 2021 at 11:37 PM

CH

“ *We were so sad to hear the news of Curtis' passing and we will miss him. Jerry Boots & Cricket Handler*

**Cricket Handler** - July 15, 2021 at 06:39 PM

PG

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



**Paul G** - July 13, 2021 at 11:57 PM