

## *In Loving Memory*



Amir Dhanani, the founder of Yamato Engine Specialists, was a true entrepreneur. His journey began in Kampala, Uganda, where he lived with his wife Gulshan and their three children. Owning a business was Amir's first dream and in 1963, he opened the first soft ice cream shop in Uganda. He later continued his electrician career by becoming an apprentice with R. White and Company, where he also learned metal fabrication.

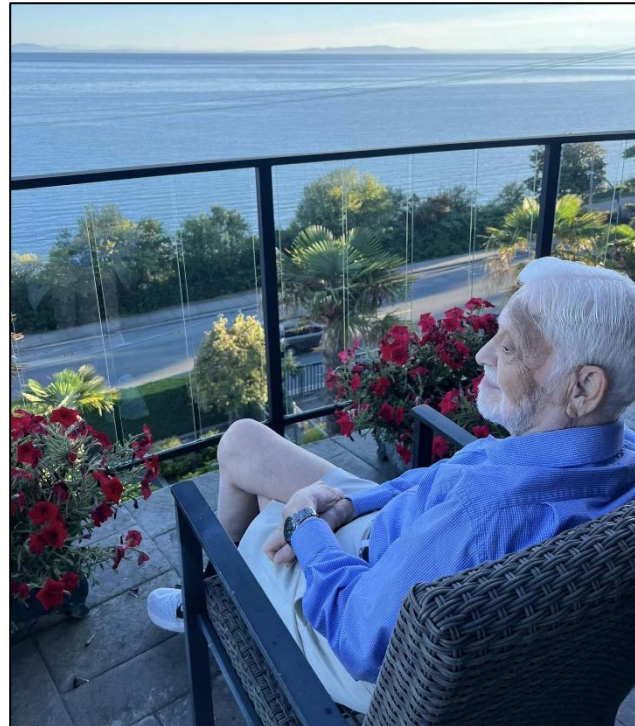
Amir's entrepreneurial spirit led him to establish his own company, Electro Craft, where he designed and manufactured bread pans for the bakery industry venturing further into sheet metal engineering by way of ambulance, truck, army vehicle, tractor trailer, and oil tanker bodies. At the age of 40, Amir's successful welding business was disrupted when he, along with other foreigners, were forced to leave Uganda by Idi Amin. As a refugee, he had the daunting task of starting over, finding work, and reinventing himself in a new country in order to provide for his family in Vancouver, Canada.

Starting from scratch in 1972 and the day after the family arrived in Vancouver, Amir found employment at Finning Tractor and Sangster Marine before establishing his own body shop, Kingsgate Autobody, in 1975. This unique business focused on repairing Japanese autos, which was unheard of at the time. Due to high demand, he started another business called Amir's Japanese Auto Repair in 1978, specializing in rebuilding engines, carburetors, alternators, and starters.

In 1986, Amir, along with some partners and his youngest son Shafique, started a remanufacturing facility for Japanese engines in Hong Kong to supply the Canadian and American markets. This marked the birth of Yamato Engine Specialists. To bring the business closer to home, Amir established a branch in Bellingham, Washington, where they initially focused on remanufacturing cylinder heads and later expanded to include rotary engines after acquiring ATK's rotary engine division.

Yamato Engine Specialists became a true family business, with Amir's wife Gulshan, two sons Asiff and Shai, and eventually his daughter Shirin joining him. As demand grew, the company expanded its sales across the United States. In 2000, Amir signed an exclusive agreement with Jasper Engines and Transmissions to purchase all the products produced in the Bellingham facility. In 2002, he founded Canam Engines, importing parts from around the world for use in the remanufacturing process.

In 2011, Yamato Engine Specialists was purchased by LKQ Corporation, allowing Amir to focus on Can Am Engines. Despite his love for the industry, Amir decided to retire in 2017, passing the business on to his older son as it transformed into Asian Engine Parts. Today, the business thrives with his son and three grandsons leading the way.



Despite Amir's battle with dementia over the last few years, his time working in the Engine Reman industry in Bellingham, WA held a significant and cherished place in his heart. He deeply appreciated the moments when he saw his family working alongside him, and developed a profound love and respect for the relationships and legacy that the Dhanani family has created and continues to uphold.

In honor of Amir's journey and in lieu of flowers, the family asks that you please consider donating to the Alzheimer's Association in your area. Thank you