Charles W. Stephens

STEPHENS, Charles W.

Charles W. Stephens, always known as Chuck, was born March 2, 1931 in Kansas City, Missouri. He died May 2 at home with Amy, his wife of 57 years and their three children Charles, Daidre and Keith at his side. Chuck attended the University of Kansas with an NROTC scholarship. After graduating with a degree in engineering he entered the U.S. Navy where he first served as engineering officer of a destroyer and later as a member of an Underwater Demolition Team (now know as “SEALS”.)

In 1956 Chuck entered the California Institute of Technology where he completed his M.S. in Mechanical Engineering. He subsequently joined a small Pasadena high tech startup, Electro Optical Systems which was later acquired by Xerox. He served in several technical and management roles including a two year move to Washington D.C. as Federal Marketing Coordinator.

He left in 1969 to form American Cycle Systems (ACS). During his thirty-five year career the company transitioned from a domestic manufacturer to a world-wide operation with manufacturing in several southeast Asian countries serving markets in the USA and Europe. Chuck enjoyed travel and made close friends throughout the world. His at-home time was often spent at the piano where he kept up an interest in both jazz and classical. His talents were often called for at parties and Maestro bands providing music for various charity events. He served as member and board position with Pasadena Angels, Valley Club, Maestros and Pasadena Symphony. He was also a member of Economic Round Table, Met Associates, Cal Tech Associates, Huntington Fellows and the Hoover Institution.

A memorial service is pending with the coordination of end of school dates for several of his eight grandchildren. Chuck loved his family!