James Ernest McCoy

November 28, 2014

James Ernest McCoy passed away on November 28th. He was born May 4, 1941 to Amy and Ernest McCoy, who preceded him in death.

He is survived by his children Laure McCoy-Redd and Kenneth McCoy, their spouses and 4 grandchildren; plus 3 adult children and their spouses, 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren not of his DNA but of his heart; and his life partner, Leslie Murphey, and their 3 cats. He is also survived by his brother, Patrick McCoy, and other relatives.

Jim went from Cal Tech to the fledgling NASA campus in Houston in 1963. He worked on his PhD in Astrophysics at Rice while also working at NASA. In his 43 years there, he worked on virtually every project: Gemini; Apollo, with experiments on Apollo 15 and Apollo 17; the Shuttle program; Space Station; and VASIMIR, the ion propulsion rocket. He was an expert in moon dust. He worked extensively with the European Space Agency on the Tethered Satellite program and flew his Plasma Motor Generator on the Delta 221 launch.

Jim was a private pilot and a flight instructor. He was an avid scuba diver for over 50 years. He traveled extensively and had been to every continent more than once. He was a skier and a race car enthusiast and loved to read, play chess, and take naps. He lived his life fully and well.

The family will receive friends at 3:00pm Saturday, December 6th, followed by the funeral service at 4:00pm, and an old-fashioned wake at his home following the services. For those who wish, the family requests contributions to Smile Train or the charity of your choice in lieu of flowers.

Per Niday Funeral Home website http://nidayfunerals.com/obits/?p=8278