Gerhard Werner Befeld

Gerhard Werner Befeld, 60, of Palm Desert passed away on Father's Day, June 16, 2013. He was born in 1953 in Germany to Werner Befeld and Elfriede Popke. In 1956 the family immigrated to the United States and settled in Anaheim, Calif. He attended school in Anaheim and later went on to the California Institute of Technology where he attained his PhD in Economics. In 1979 he married Marie Youngs, the love of his life as well as his partner in business. Together, as young adults, they bought and operated the Golden Lantern Mobile Home Park in Desert Hot Springs, Calif. Three years later they moved to Palm Desert and became the owners of Suncrest Country Club. They lovingly, with hard work, built it up to the beautiful place it is today. Gerhard loved aviation and was often seen flying over the mountains and the Coachella Valley in his helicopter. He also loved spending time at their ranch in Garner Valley and made the lake there available for use by the Forest Service for water drops on wild fires in the San Jacinto mountains. He is survived by his wife, Marie, his Uncle Gus and his cousins. He will be deeply missed by Marie and the many that knew and loved him. A private celebration in his memory will be held at a later date. Donations can be made in his name to one of the Christian camps that he supported. These include Hume Lake, Forest Home and Campus by the Sea. FitzHenry-Wiefels Palm Desert is entrusted with arrangements.

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