Dr. Kurt Weiler Obituary

Dr. Kurt W. Weiler
March 16, 1943 - April 17, 2016
Resided in Alexandria, VA

Obituary

Dr. Kurt W. Weiler passed away at home surrounded by family on April 17, 2016. He fought a courageous battle against prostate cancer for 24 years. Kurt was born on March 16, 1943 in Phoenix, Arizona. He is survived by his beloved wife Geertje, his three adopted children Anil, Sanna and Corinn (son in law Chris); mother Dorothy and brother Robert.

After receiving his PhD from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in 1970, he began his career as a Research Fellow at Caltech. In 1970, he moved to Haren in Groningen, Netherlands to work for the Netherlands Foundation for Radio Astronomy. Thereafter, he worked for Laboratorio di Radioastronomia in Bologna, Italy and then the Max Planck Institut fur Radio Astronomie in Bonn, Germany. Kurt always loved Europe and the lifestyle there, and met his wife Geertje there. After nearly a decade, Kurt returned to the U.S. to work for the National Science Foundation, and finally the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) in Washington, D.C.

Kurt was an internationally known and respected scientist. He had a long and illustrious career in radio astronomy, which has included many important and pioneering accomplishments, excellence in scientific research and an outstanding track record of mentoring young scientists and engineers. Among his most important accomplishments is the discovery of Radio Supernovae (RSNe) and his subsequent large body of exemplary work on this phenomenon. RSNe, are currently an important area of study in astrophysics.

During his career, he wrote more than 250 publications, served as editor to seven books, was invited to lecture at over 50 meetings and conferences and holds a patent. However, Kurt’s most abiding contribution to the future of science and technology in the U.S. and at NRL, are the high quality young scientists and engineers he has guided and mentored throughout his career.

Personally, Kurt had a passion for Jaguar cars, was an avid skier and loved to be with family. There was nothing that he couldn’t fix. We will miss his
silly jokes, his guidance, honesty and his warm loving personality.

Relatives and friends may call at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Dr., Alexandria VA on Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 11 am. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Prostate Cancer Research Institute.
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