

August Erwin Buck Junior

7/19/2015

August Erwin Buck, Junior, was a proud Texan, born in Houston, Texas, on June 15, 1936 and completed his Ph.D. in Chemistry at the University of Texas in 1971. He passed away Friday, June 10, 2015, and his life was celebrated at a family service at Grace Episcopal Church.

He was a man whose most important priority was his family. He had a tender heart, a kind soul, a twinkle in his eye and was full of love for his family.

He created traditions such as tucking each child in at night with prayers, annual treks to Colorado, homemade pizza every Sunday night, and gathering together over the dining room table nightly to share amazing food. He was a foodie: he made famous shortbread cookies, pancakes, eggnog and homemade ice cream.



From early on he was a brilliant scientist, conducting chemistry experiments in his parent's garage, and building and launching a large rocket in Padre Island. He shared this passion with his children, making volcanoes in the sandbox, coloring the flames in the fireplace and growing sugar crystals.

He was an anchor, who gave wise guidance for long-term decisions. He was particularly passionate about education and personal development of his family: he sacrificed many pleasures for himself to provide those for his family. He loved to challenge the status quo to find the truth, and would play the devil's advocate to encourage others to think deeply and question why things are the way they are, socially, politically, scientifically and religiously. He loved to root for the underdog and acted this out in his serving, such as the needy, in Meals on Wheels, ushering at church, Friendship Feast, and volunteering to help with tax preparations.

He was a lover of music, particularly organ and opera but also Johnny Cash and Hank Williams.

He loved God and loved books about the history of the church and religion.

He is survived by his loving family, his dearly beloved wife of 51 years, Dorothy Pauline Bahn Buck; and three children, daughter, Dorothy Elizabeth Buck, (son-in-law, Mark Haskins and granddaughter, Charlotte Elizabeth Buck Haskins); daughter, Catherine Elizabeth Buck Holton (son-in-law Gregory Wayne Holton and grandchildren Grace Amelia Holton, True Elizabeth Holton, and Fisher Gregory Holton); and son and namesake, August Erwin Buck III, (daughter-in-law Frieda Marie Kasprowicz Buck and grandchildren Paloma Sophia Frieda Buck and August "Gus" Erwin Buck IV). Also he is survived by his sisters, Margaret Nell Buck Butler and Patricia Ann Buck Helzer.

He is already deeply missed by family and friends, who picture him riding his Harley, sailing his boat, and playing the Hi-Fi loudly so heaven is full of organ music!