



## David Brown Smith

March 19, 1940 - August 21, 2022

David Brown Smith, an Aerospace Engineer and resident of Centreville, Maryland, passed away on August 21, 2022, at the age of 82.

David is survived by his wife, Linda Heller Smith; his brother, Thomas Smith; his sister, Karen Dee Wagner; his daughters, Tammi Coyle, Cathy Ferguson and Sherry Skelly; and his grandchildren, Kelly and Sean Ferguson. He is predeceased by his sisters, Laura Lou Golden and Dorothy Rae Cornell.

David was born on March 19, 1940, in Charleston, WV, to David and Mary Louise Smith (nee Thompson). He graduated from USC, MSAE Aerospace Engineering and Astrodynamics 1962-1965 and worked on several major explorations including Pioneer - 10, the Mars Viking Orbiter, and Lander Navigation Teams, the Apollo - 11 and Voyager Mission Design Teams, and the Galileo and SIR - C Development Teams, MVM Voyager, Galileo, and two shuttle radar missions: STS 59 and 68. He was awarded NASA's Exception Achievement Medal for his leadership and management skills for the Earth Orbiting Shuttle Missions. He worked at Cal Tech JPL, NASA and Boeing. In fact, he was still consulting at Boeing within the past 2 years.

His activities on these missions ranged from navigation, mission design, and systems engineering to the development and delivery of the central computer system (CDS) to the Galileo spacecraft.

Before joining SpaceDev, David was a key member of the Mars program architect studies at Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL). He and his wife raised their children in La Canada, California. He continued his career as a consultant at Boeing in Arlington, VA. This is when he met his wife Linda Heller.

During his life, he coached semi pro football and scouted for high school football. He got his pilot's license. He was a spiritual person who loved problem solving and caring for his dog, Winston. In his spare time, he'd paint beautiful oil landscapes, tend to his custom built Koi Pond, and golf.

He was a loving husband and devoted father. David had a witty sense of humor, even at the end. In fact, just six months before he passed, he finished writing his book. The family is hoping to have it published soon.

# Tribute Wall



“ *David Brown Smith*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



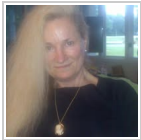
“ *David Brown Smith*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *David Brown Smith*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *David Smith and I, Lynda Koenig were married for over 12 years*

**Lynda Koenig** - December 15, 2022 at 01:59 AM



“ *Actually, David had four wives. I was the third and the one that helped him through a higher level of career. His second was Laura J King I hope that David rests in peace in spite of his family's deceptions*

**Lynda J Koenig** - December 15, 2022 at 01:29 AM



*Please let him rest in peace*

**Cathy Ferguson** - December 28, 2022 at 10:22 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of David Brown Smith.*



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September 06, 2022 at 04:35 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of the passing of David. He was such a nice man. Thoughts and prayers are with you Linda and all of his family.*

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**Patricia Radcliffe** - August 31, 2022 at 09:26 AM