



Harry B. Cordes

February 9, 1929 - March 19, 2009

Harry B. Cordes passed away on March 19, 2009 after a brief battle with leukemia. He was born on February 9, 1929 in Great Bend, Kansas where his parents emigrated from Germany in 1928.

Harry became the first member of his family to attain a college degree, graduating from Kansas State University in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science degree. Although his degree was in physics, Harry always had a penchant for electrical engineering and had an immediate opportunity to satisfy his interest by landing a position upon graduation as an electronic scientist with the U.S. Navy Underwater Sound lab in New England, Connecticut where he worked on developing underwater detection devices. After a stint with the Electric Boat Company devising steering systems for one of the first atomic submarines, Harry joined the Boeing Company in 1954, where he developed the first flight simulator for the Air Force. After he left Boeing in 1961 he had a series of executive engineering positions with other companies which ultimately landed him in York, Pennsylvania as a Vice President for Fincor and, later, for Wright Hoist and Crane Company. In 1972 he decided to go out on his own and founded Red Lion Controls which became, and still is, a leading manufacturer of electronic controls for original equipment manufacturers. After selling the company to a British firm in the late 1980's, he retired and he and his wife moved to Kent County, MD. They built a home on Churn Creek prior to moving to Chestertown in 2005.

Harry is survived by his wife, Carol; two sons, Fred Cordes and his wife Karen

of Houston, TX and Michael Cordes and his wife Jennifer of Baltimore, MD; four grandchildren, Alexandra, Caitlin, Christopher and Nicholas Cordes; five stepchildren, Jeffrey Mummert, Shellie Mummert Day, William Crowley, Susan Crowley and Judith Crowley Spaulding; 8 step grandchildren. Also surviving is his brother, Donald Cordes and his wife Bettie of Wichita, Kansas; nephew Kenneth Cordes; niece, Kathryn Pelz and her 3 children, Johnathan, Michael and Kristen.

A private memorial service will be held by the family.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Donor Services

P.O. Box 4072 Pittsfield, MA 01202 or online at www.leukemia-lymphoma.org;
The Salvation Army Southern Territory Headquarters 1424 Northeast
Expressway Atlanta, GA 30329 or online at www.uss.salvationarmy.org; The
Garden of The Presbyterian Church of Chestertown 905 Gateway Dr.
Chestertown, MD 21620.

Tribute Wall



“ *Harry B. Cordes*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Harry B. Cordes*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Harry B. Cordes*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Harry was one of those guys that you remember as you continue throughout life. He was a brilliant engineer and business man, down to earth and knew how to have a good time.*

While Harry is now gone from this earth, rest assured that we will continue to have him in our hearts and minds in the future, and always with a big smile.

All the best to the Harry's family and friends, and his Red Lion Controls Family...

*Best Regards
Les and Susan Goodman##imported-begin##Les
Goodman##imported-end##*

March 23, 2009 at 06:44 PM



“ My heart goes out to friends and family with sincere sympathy. Harry, you gave me my second chance in life hiring me on at Red Lion Controls. I am so grateful to you for your kindness and understanding and being a father I never had when I needed it most with lifes struggles and abuse. I will always treasure you deep in my heart.....Thank you Harry for everything!!!##imported-begin##Teresa Ferro##imported-end##

March 20, 2009 at 10:03 AM



“ Please accept our sincere sympathy to you and your family at this difficult time, Carol.
Peggy and Walt##imported-begin##PEGGY AND WALT CAMPBELL##imported-end##

March 20, 2009 at 08:22 AM



“ My deepest sympathy to the family. Harry was a great caring man, president/owner and friend to all who knew him. It was my pleasure to work for such a wonder person.##imported-begin##Louise Yingling##imported-end##

March 20, 2009 at 06:38 AM