



Stephen Davis

November 11, 1952 - October 25, 2017

Stephen James Davis of Palmyra, NY, died on Wednesday, October 25, 2017, at the University of Rochester Medical Center. He was 64.

Born on November 11, 1952, in Geneva, NY, he was the son of the late James F Davis, Jr. and Elizabeth Lyon Davis. After his parents were discharged from the United States Air Force in 1952, at six weeks old they returned to his father's homeland of Rock Hall, MD. At the age of 14, the family moved to Chestertown, MD. He graduated from Chestertown High School, Class of 1971, during which time he attended Boys State. In his senior year he invented, in his parents basement, an apparatus that measures the wave length of a laser beam in pico seconds, which he later received a patent on.

As an undergraduate at the University of Maryland, he joined the Quantum Electronics Group under Prof. Carroll Alley. He worked with grad student John Degnan to finish work on a state-of-the-art short pulse laser that Sylvania Electronics had given up on. Following this, he provided invaluable support to experiments demonstrating General Relativistic effects on the rate of real world clocks. He then went to work at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, CA. There he worked on the Shiva laser, the most powerful laser in the world at that time. Dr. John Emmet, the director of the laser fusion project, stated that his contributions saved a year on the successful completion of the laser even though he was technically just a

technician. Following this, he set up PowerSpectra Company to market a high-voltage short pulse generator that he had developed while working on Shiva. He continued leading PowerSpectra for many years improving the pulse generator and working with Boeing to apply it to advanced radar. Unfortunately Boeing changed direction in its radar work and causing PowerSpectra to close. He then continued working with Land Ray, a spinoff from PowerSpectra which worked on ground-penetrating radar.

Mr. Davis was a private pilot. While living in California, he cherished living on his sailboat, "Bombay Express" while enjoying time with family and friends. He would return to Rock Hall as much as he could, owning a boat there also. Stephen enjoyed being an amateur photographer, following NASA research and always being involved with radar research.

He is survived by two sisters; Marybeth Downes of Centreville, MD, and Jane D. Feigleson of Chestertown, MD; and his nephews, Richard Coppage, Clay Coppage, and Harry Feigleson. He was predeceased by his brother, Thomas L. Davis in 2007; his mother in 2011; as well as his father in 2017.

Graveside funeral service will be held at St. Paul's Cemetery, Chestertown, MD, on November 18 at 11:00 AM. In lieu of flowers, Stephen's family requests that memorial donations be made to the Lung Cancer Research Foundation.

Cemetery Details

St. Pauls Cemetery (Kent County)

7600 Sandy Bottom Road
Chestertown, MD

Previous Events

Graveside Service

NOV 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul's Church Cemetery (Kent)
Chestertown, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Stephen Davis*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Stephen Davis*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Stephen Davis*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - November 20, 2017 at 07:26 AM



“ *Always knew Steve would turn out to be a great person since we went to school together. Sorry he did not get to live his accomplishments later in life. Thoughts and prayers are with his family. Bob Voshell. Classmate of CHS 1971.*



bob voshell - November 04, 2017 at 04:19 PM

JH

“ 2 files added to the album Steve Davis, April 27, 2017



Jeanette Helfrich - November 02, 2017 at 12:04 AM

PM

“ Pam Marvel lit a candle in memory of Stephen Davis



Pam Marvel - November 01, 2017 at 10:05 AM

MC

“ Marion Chance lit a candle in memory of Stephen Davis



marion chance - October 31, 2017 at 07:26 PM

JF

“ Jane And Harry Feigleson lit a candle in memory of Stephen Davis



Jane and Harry Feigleson - October 31, 2017 at 05:08 PM