



Roger Bruce Engelbach

March 7, 1943 - November 27, 2020

Roger Bruce Engelbach, of California, was born on March 7th 1943 in Iowa, and passed away on November 27th 2020 in California. He is survived by his loving family.

Tribute Wall



“ *Roger Bruce Engelbach*

October 08, 2023 at 05:23 PM

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“ Born in 1943, Roger Bruce Engelbach was raised by his mother Helen and father Robert along with his four siblings (Georgia, Gordon, Joyce and Gary) in Warrenville, IL. Bruce would share stories of growing up in their house on Main Street. This is where the phrase “get a bigger hammer” was coined in the family as a way to fix most if not all problems.

Bruce met Jean Ann Baillie at the University of Illinois through the intermural volleyball tournaments. They married in 1967. He and Jean shared a love of learning and they supported each other’s educational goals while raising a family. Bruce completed a BA in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering, a MS in Computer Science and an MBA. The family joke is who ever had the most degrees had to cut the cake. Bruce was so proud to give up the cake cutting honor when Jean caught up with her master’s degree in Library Science.

Bruce and Jean settled their family in Bellflower in 1979. They have two children (Jennifer and Jonathan). Having both come from large families there was always room for more in their home. They officially fostered early in their marriage while stationed in New Mexico. Over the years the fostering became less official and more permanent. Vicki and Donovan are their children. Many more are family too.

He was many things to many people: son, brother, husband, father, friend, teacher, mentor, patron, coach, caretaker, chauffer, corporate officer, military officer and model train aficionado. He was the best grilled cheese maker; however, the uninitiated would be surprised to see it was always with raisin bread. He could also be counted on to appreciate any cookies too well done for the rest of us.

Bruce volunteered for many community groups. Whatever plan Jean

hatched; Bruce would be there with her to help see it to completion. They were a great team.

Bruce's tenacity was renowned in the family as he successfully bounced back after two organ transplants. The cancer diagnosis at the end of 2019 was a blow to us all. He lost the battle on November 27, 2020. He is survived by his brother Gordon, sisters Georgia and Joyce, daughter Jennifer Kim and her husband Andrew, son Jonathan Engelbach and his wife Florencia, daughter Veronica Hutson, son Donovan Liley and his wife Rochelle, grandchildren Jess, Melissa, Tim, Katelin, Tyler, Ryan, and Tyler, great grandchildren Declan and Aubree, many nieces and nephews and the adopted family he surrounded himself with.

Bruce and Jean found strength in their partnership and love for each other. Right before her passing in 2019, they celebrated 52 years of marriage. This last year without his best friend was tough and we are truly grateful to know they are in Heaven together again.

Jonathan Engelbach - December 18, 2020 at 10:44 AM