



Mr. Roger Walker Amidon, Jr.

October 25, 1942 - May 13, 2016

Roger Walker Amidon Jr, of Hopewell NJ, died May 13th, 2016. Roger was 73. He was the son of Roger and Laura (John) Amidon, of Verona NJ, and was the loving husband of Nancy, his wife of more than 37 years. Roger died at the University Medical Center of Princeton in Plainsboro, after a long battle with COPD. He is survived by Nancy, his two sons David and Roger, his daughter-in-law Elizabeth and granddaughter Pearl. He also leaves his four siblings, his brothers William and Douglas Amidon, and his loving sisters Kathryn Coffey and Lesley Sheehy, as well as many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Roger, an electronics engineer and computer programmer, began his career by creating innovative software and hardware for the developing personal computer industry, from its earliest “hobbyist” days in the 1970’s and, one way or another, for most of his life. Both an innovator and entrepreneur he helped found several early personal computer companies. Roger will be remembered for his contributions to the first multiplexing LCD display, the first personal computer software development tools, the TPM operating system, and Zapple, a diagnostic tool for the Z-80 chip that worked at the machine level.

In 1976, Roger was a founding member of the Trenton Computer Festival, one of the very first gatherings of computer enthusiasts in the country, perhaps the world. For both hardware and software, computer geeks and hobbyists came from great distances and descend onto the Trenton State College campus (now The College of New Jersey). The idea was to draw people together and provide an opportunity for engineers and developers to exchange and learn about the new ideas and developments, buy or sell the latest hardware and software or find a used piece of equipment at a pretty good price. It was a great success. Fairs like TCF began popping up across the country. TCF has expanded, brought in new technologies, and been an annual event for over 40 years.

As the chief engineer of Rising Star industries, a fierce competitor to Microsoft in the early days of home computing, he shepherded the development of the Epson QX-10 personal home computer, providing a true WYSIWYG environment for the user and introducing the

concept of integrated office software that predated Microsoft's Office Suite.

Later he would go on to create his own business, the DX Computer Company and got caught up in the booming game industry. He was the primary programmer on many games for the Game Boy entertainment system including, "Turn and Burn", "Home Alone 2", and the first handheld "Star Trek: The Next Generation" game.

Roger was also a well-known amateur radio enthusiast; starting from a very young age. He held the call letters K2SMN for 60 years, a long-time ARRL member, and conducted the East Coast VHF Society's Sunday morning net for more than 20 years. His eclectic interests included the music of the Beatles, science fiction movies, and adventure games such as the Legend of Zelda and Dragon Warrior. He was a storyteller and a dreamer, who loved his wife, children, and grandchild immensely. He was a determined force of nature, generous, and will be missed by those who knew and loved him.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the ARRL Historic Preservation fund, at www.arl.org/memorial-gifts (telephone 860-594-0397), will help provide a Silent Key memorial honoring Roger.

Services are being held by Hopewell Memorial Home & Cremation Services located at 71 East Prospect Street, Hopewell NJ 08525

www.HopewellMemorial.com

Cemetery

Highland Cemetery

95 Hopewell-Werstsville Road
Hopewell, NJ, 08525

Events

MAY **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

19

Hopewell Memorial Home

71 East Prospect Street, Hopewell, NJ, US, 08525

MAY **Visitation** 09:30AM - 10:30AM

20

Hopewell Memorial Home

71 East Prospect Street, Hopewell, NJ, US, 08525

MAY **Service** 10:30AM - 11:00AM

20

Hopewell Memorial Home

71 East Prospect Street, Hopewell, NJ, US, 08525

Comments



“ Sherri Robbins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roger Walker Amidon, Jr.



Sherri Robbins - May 20, 2016 at 01:08 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mike Friedman - May 20, 2016 at 07:05 AM



“ Jen lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roger Walker Amidon, Jr.



Jen - May 19, 2016 at 09:14 AM



“ Susie Eick lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roger Walker Amidon, Jr.



Susie Eick - May 18, 2016 at 09:22 PM



“ Diana Wilk lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roger Walker Amidon, Jr.



Diana Wilk - May 18, 2016 at 07:20 PM



“ Brenda & Chris Berardo lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roger Walker Amidon, Jr.



Brenda & Chris Berardo - May 18, 2016 at 03:53 PM



“ Liz Amidon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roger Walker Amidon, Jr.



Liz Amidon - May 18, 2016 at 11:49 AM



“ William V. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Roger Walker Amidon Jr..



William V. - May 17, 2016 at 02:51 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Roger Walker Amidon, Jr..



May 17, 2016 at 02:08 PM



“ I am grateful to have worked with Roger early in my career. He was a good man.

William Volk - May 17, 2016 at 01:47 PM