



Joseph Homer McElroy Jr.

May 11, 1935 - March 15, 2020

Joseph Homer McElroy Jr died peacefully in his home on Sunday, March 15, 2020, after a period of failing health. He was 84.

Joe was born May 11, 1935, in Philadelphia, PA, the second of two children of Joseph Homer McElroy Sr and Clara (Brustlin) McElroy. He attended St. Joseph's Prep and what was then St. Joseph's College, graduating in 1957 with a degree in Physics. A member of the ROTC while in school, he served as an officer in the Air Force for over 20 years, including a year in Vietnam. He retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and went on to a successful career in business related to his military experience. Joe retired from Astron, Inc. in Reston, Virginia where he was Vice President and General Manager.

While raising his family in many locations across the U.S. but primarily in southern California, Joe coached innumerable baseball and basketball teams, served in many roles for the local Boy Scout troop (including Pack Leader), supervised the carving and racing of many Pinewood Derby masterpieces, and never missed an activity his sons or daughter were involved in. He was a fun and loving Poppops to his many grandchildren and loved nothing more than a cheesy pun. He was an avid golfer who was always looking for that magical ball, tee, or club that would give him an edge (though, alas, he never found it). His extensive knowledge, depth of experience, and hands-on support in car repair and maintenance kept cranky vehicles on the road; his tool collection was the envy of his sons and sons-in-law, and he helped with many a household project as his children worked their way through first homes and fixer-uppers.

No matter the issue, he was always there with support and advice. He was the cornerstone of his family and the rock upon which we all rested, but he also made sure we had what we needed to fend for ourselves. We were lucky to have him as long as we did, and he will be remembered with great love.

Joe is survived by his daughter Kyle McElroy Dallaire, sons Michael J., Patric M, Brian J, and Timothy S. McElroy; stepchildren Shawn Portway, Pamela Portway Eilts, and Victoria

Portway; several nieces and nephews; and their spouses, partners, and children. He was predeceased by his sister Louise (McElroy) Nihan, his son Kevin C. McElroy, and his second wife Joanne E. (Billups) McElroy.

Joe will be buried with full military honors at Arlington Cemetery at a date to be determined. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Dementia Society of America (<https://www.dementiasociety.org/>), the National Military Family Association (<https://www.militaryfamily.org/>), or a charity of choice.