

Frank Hampshire

1948- 16 September 2015



Frank H. Hampshire of Chapel Hill, NC passed away on September 16, 2015 after a long illness. At the time, he was surrounded, as he always was, by the love and warmth of family and very dear friends.

Born in Walla Walla, WA in 1948, he was the son of the late Frank H. Hampshire, Sr., and the late Lucille L. (Fink) Hampshire.

As part of a military family, Mr. Hampshire spent most of his early life growing up in the South Pacific islands of Johnston, Guam, and lastly in Hawaii, where he spent most of his years and which he always identified as "home." It was from his youthful, often overnight, forays into the jungles and wilds that he developed a deep and enduring love of nature, and a lifelong, insatiable thirst for knowledge about plants, birds, astronomy, and weather. His passions also included flying, fishing, radio communications, electronics, and all things "optical" - microscopes, telescopes, stereoscopes, and just about everything in-between.

In 2011, Mr. Hampshire retired after 19 years as Senior Director of Market Research for the automotive trade groups MEMA, AASA, and HDMA. Prior to joining MEMA he was Manager of Forecasting and Strategic Planning for Allied Signal Automotive, and served as a consultant on a variety of automotive projects ranging from new product introduction to the marketing of remanufactured motor vehicle parts.

He received his bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of New Hampshire and his MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. He also holds two master's degrees in experimental psychology and biomedical engineering. While a graduate student, he was employed by the U.S. EPA, conducting research in behavioral toxicology, and completed an internship in strategic marketing with Xerox Corporation.

Mr. Hampshire was an active duty helicopter pilot and aircraft commander in the US Army and in the Massachusetts Army National Guard. For his service as a combat helicopter pilot in Vietnam, his military awards included the Bronze Star and sixteen air medals. He was a member of the national Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association.

Mr. Hampshire is survived by his devoted wife of 34 years, Nancy, and his adoring daughter Robin and husband Mark Mason, of Somerville, MA., as well as a loving sister, Nell Kiker, of Texas.

His wife cannot thank enough his extended family and in-laws, including many nieces and nephews, all of whom have shown him extraordinary love over the years. She also thanks the many amazing friends, relatives, and neighbors who assisted her and Frank during his prolonged illness with random acts of kindness, love, friendship, and devotion.

A service to honor his memory will be held on Friday, October 16 at 11 am in the Reeves Auditorium North at the NC Botanical Gardens in Chapel Hill. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project or to UNC Hospice Home, or to another charity of your choice.

With a winking nod to Frank, his youth, and his persona, casual attire is acceptable, and Hawaiian shirts are encouraged.