



David Edmond McKinley

November 5, 1957 - December 25, 2015

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David Edmond McKinley, long time bay area resident, passed away at home, with Richelle, his wife of 35 years, at his side. His fighting spirit, which defined his 58 years, never faltered in his final months of life.

His distinguished career in high technology laid the groundwork for many present day products. In the 80's and 90's he was instrumental in developing mass data storage, hard drives, and portable flash memory used in digital cameras. In addition, he worked on military technology-flight control systems for unmanned aircraft and night vision camera systems that turned total darkness into visible images. His other work includes the development of control and image processing software that was used in the Apple iPhone camera to great success. More recent accomplishments include several medical products. The innovations and designs that David pioneered in the fields of optics, data storage, and image processing are still shaping the technological landscape today.

David's interests included scuba diving, boating, gardening, golfing and always improving his surroundings. He had a strong desire to get up and make the most of every day and always gave good advice to his loved ones.

David loved his family and appreciated every minute he spent with them. He always placed family first.

He is survived by his wife, Richelle, daughter Megan Sullivan (Mark), and beloved grandson, Mitchell Mark David, and sister Carol. He was preceded in death by infant son Ryan, sister Susan, and parents Edmond and Mary McKinley.

A memorial gathering will be held on Saturday January 9, 2016 between 2pm-4pm at the McKinley residence. Donations can be made to Kaiser Foundation Hospital Hospice Department, 975 Sereno Dr., Vallejo, Ca 94589, or your choice.

Previous Events

Service at the McKinley residence

JAN 9. 2:00 PM (PT)

Twin Chapels Mortuary
1100 Tennessee Street
Vallejo, CA 94590
(707) 552-6696
twinchapels@aol.com

Tribute Wall

PP

“ David and I met in 1992 at a start-up. Over the last 23 years we worked together 4-5 times, consulted for each other about as much, spent many lunch times together, too many to count, going to electronics shows and so on. We always had fun, always had great discussions about our employers and Silicon Valley in general. We also discussed family from time to time. We shared a lot over 23 years, some of it serious, most of it fun.

I would always go to David for technical help and he always gave me great feedback. It was a pleasure to work with him again recently and we continued to share technical info by email and the usual random topics after he retired. I will miss him a lot and I am glad to have known him.

Richelle, Megan and the rest of your family, my thoughts are with you.

Peter Pietrangelo - January 09, 2016 at 07:31 AM

HS

“ Dave worked for me at DOC and Light and I am grateful to him for always meeting me with a big smile no matter how tense the situation was. He was always ready to evaluate and experiment new technology and circuits. His can do attitude will be greatly missed.

Harpuneet Singh - January 09, 2016 at 03:28 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David Edmond McKinley.*



January 09, 2016 at 12:15 AM



“ *David joined our Light team early in the game. We appreciate his contributions and excellent work performed. He is missed.*

We will be making a donation to the Kaiser Foundation Hospital Hospice Department.

Our thoughts are with the McKinley family.

Love,

The Light Family

Light Family - January 07, 2016 at 03:39 PM



“ *Light Family purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of David Edmond McKinley.*



Light Family - January 07, 2016 at 03:02 PM

PL

“ I worked with Dave many years ago (Maxtor, MiniStor, & Avatar). Very brilliant man. He was consulting for me at a company named Avatar. During this period, we were talking about his daughter (who was probably ~ 10) She did a science experiment for a science fair pertaining to laundry detergent. I asked him what he learned from her experiment. He told me to never put detergent directly on the clothes as it is very caustic and can burn the clothes. From that day on, I always fill the washing machine with water, put the detergent in and then put in the clothes. To this day, if my mind is wandering when I do laundry, I think of Dave and smile at our conversation. With all the designs and inventions that I know he worked on - it's kind of funny that I would think of him & laundry detergent! But most of all, his love and pride for his daughter came thru loud and clear which is what makes this such a sweet memory for me.

I am sorry for the family's loss and the loss of a great mind to the engineering community. He saved many products and companies with his work.

Penny (Marazzo) Lucas

Penny (Marazzo) Lucas - January 07, 2016 at 02:36 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of David Edmond McKinley.



January 06, 2016 at 07:37 PM

JT

“ Dave,

Thank you for your friendship since the Maxtor days. Your kindness and support over the years while we worked together, meant a lot to me. I will forever remember the good times and achievements made together in various projects. I will also remember the times you invited Les and me to your boat and the times we played a few rounds of golf at SJ muni.

I am really shocked that you are no longer with us, but knowing you, I am sure you will be passionately doing what you love.

God bless you Dave.

*Friend,
Johnny Tseng*

Johnny Tseng - January 04, 2016 at 01:24 PM

JH

“ Jody Gaillard Hastey lit a candle in memory of David Edmond McKinley



Jody Gaillard Hastey - December 31, 2015 at 09:03 PM

JH

I have known David since he was a toddler. Susie and I would raid his toys and make dirt roads in their vegetable garden. He was a wonderful child that grew into a greater man. I am so sorry for this great loss. Now he and Susie are together taking care of business on the other side. God Bless his family. Jody

Jody Gaillard Hastey - December 31, 2015 at 09:08 PM

JT

“ I Will always remember my baby cousin, David McKinley. With so many thoughts concerning him, one stands out in my mind lately. He sent the sweetest and most thoughtful message concerning the loss of my brother, Ken just in March. His remarks made us all smile. Hearts are broken by the loss of both of these gentlemen in my life. I promise to continue to pray for comfort for his family. Jann Taylor

Jann Taylor - December 31, 2015 at 02:43 PM

DA

“ Every time Dave spoke to me, he reminded me of how much he loved Shelley and all his family. He truly showed the meaning of love in his devotion to his family. He will always be present in my heart.
Danielle



Danielle - December 31, 2015 at 12:12 PM

LS

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Lee Snorteland - December 30, 2015 at 11:39 AM

JS

“ I worked with David at DOC and Light. What I remember most about David is the passion with which he approached everything he did. Whether it was research, design or manufacturing I knew the outcome of his efforts was going to be very thorough and successful.

There was one topic however that seemed to dwarf his passion for everything else, his Grand children, every time the topic of grand children came up, his face light up and I knew through the conversation and the look in his eyes that they were very important to him.

David was a great man and he will be missed. So sorry for your loss!

Jim Schmieder

Jim Schmieder - December 30, 2015 at 10:05 AM