



## David M. Bullington

October 4, 2023

### In Memoriam of David M. Bullington

Born on May 25, 1955, in Union, South Carolina, David Michael Bullington's voyage through life began, allowing him to complete spectacular missions in the short amount of time he was given. On October 4, 2023, in Fort Collins, Colorado, this brilliant mind left behind a legacy that reached for the stars.

David was the beloved son of Betty Elizabeth Moore and William Hugh Bullington and an adored brother to Deborah Ann Marsh, Paul Hugh Bullington, and Teresa Gail Marchbanks. Growing up in Greenville, South Carolina, David was not known for his athletic ability, but rather for his remarkable intellect that set him apart. The historic race to the moon in the 1960's captivated young David's imagination, igniting a lifelong passion for aerospace engineering.

Pursuing his dreams, he earned his associate degree from DeVry Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia, a milestone that paved the way for his exciting career. After graduating in the top of his class, David was highly scouted by Sandia National Laboratories and embarked on a new chapter in Albuquerque, New Mexico. There he met his love and co-pilot in life, Jayne Estes Hughes; their union on March 17, 1979, marked the beginning of a remarkable 44-year adventure together. In May 1994, his dearest daughter

Tracy Nicole Bullington was born and completed their small, devoted flight crew. David raised Tracy to have his compassionate soul, inquisitiveness for knowledge, and unwavering ambition to chase her dreams, no matter the obstacles or fears. David's love always extended to the furriest and featheriest of family members; he may have been a reluctant Bird Dad to Parry the Parrot but was a proud GrandPAWrent to Admiral and General.

As an electronics engineer, David's contributions to Sandia and to the field of aerospace technology were vast and monumental. As described by colleagues and friends, David was a driving force behind numerous satellite and state-of-the-art projects, notably playing a pivotal role in the creation of the original Global Position System (GPS). His dedication and love for his work lead him to retire two separate times. In 2021, David moved to Fort Collins, Colorado, to be closer to his daughter, and in May of 2023, he finally gained a son-in-law, Jared Kade Buniger.

To his colleagues, David was a kind and dependable presence, his expertise shining through in every project. His positivity was infectious, always accompanied with a quick smile or a quiet laugh. Within his family circle, he was the embodiment of love, thoughtfulness, and care. David's organizational prowess made him the rock upon which everyone leaned, the glue that bound them together.

David's departure from this Earth may have been unexpected and well before his time, but we know he was undoubtedly welcomed onto his heavenly journey by his mother, father, brother, and all those he loved whom proceeded him. All of David's beloved cousins, nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends will cherish their memories of him forever and never let his impact on them be forgotten.

As we bid farewell to this extraordinary man, we find solace in the knowledge

that he now rests among the stars he so dearly loved. David's memory will forever inspire us to reach for new heights and explore the boundless universe, just as he did throughout his remarkable life.

To embrace David's spirit and love for advancing technology, this obituary was generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and then perfected by the humans who loved him.

### David's Celebration of Life Service

Please join us on October 21st at 11am at the Greenville Memorial Gardens Mausoleum in Piedmont, South Carolina, to gather in worship, love for David, and support for each other. We will then say our final goodbyes to David, and he will be laid to rest next to his parents. A reception will directly follow at the Victorian Hills Community Church in Greer, SC, where we will come together over a provided meal to share fond memories and stories of David.

### David's Forever Time Capsule Project:

Since David has extended family and friends across the country who loved him and are grieving his sudden loss, we want to involve everyone, no matter your location, in his celebration of life.

David was surrounded by those who loved him during his life, and it is important to our family that he continues to be loved for eternity. Therefore, we have decided to transform his burial vault into his forever time capsule. Possible tributes for his project could be a handwritten note, letter, story, or card written to David, a photograph, and/or anything (very small) that you would like to be entombed with him forever.

If you would like to participate, please bring your contribution to his service on October 21st or mail it to “6 Cole Creek Court, Greer, SC 29651” with it addressed to the attention of Jayne or Tracy Bullington.

Thank you to all who have supported our family during this incredibly difficult time. Your kind words, cards, flowers, and sentiments regarding David have made more of an impact on us than you could ever imagine.

We Love You All,

The Bullingtons

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

OCT 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

Greenville Memorial Gardens Mausoleum  
7784 Augusta Road  
Piedmont, SC 29673

## Reception

OCT 21. 1:00 PM (ET)

Victorian Hills Community Church  
209 Victor Ave Ext.  
Greer, SC 29651

# Tribute Wall

JB

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



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**Jaye Bullington** - October 28, 2023 at 07:48 PM

JB

“ From Jim Klarkowski:

*LEXIS Array of Low-Energy X-Ray Imaging Sensors is produced by four deployable solar panels and a fifth fixed disk which also serves as a sun. There were six X-ray sensors. Each like a small telescope and each featured curved mirrors whose multilayer coatings reflected and focused low-energy X-rays or extreme ultraviolet (EUV) light the way optical telescopes focus visible light. The satellite and payloads were funded by the United States Department of Energy and built by Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in collaboration with Sandia National Laboratories and the University of California-Space Sciences Lab. The satellite bus was built by AeroAstro, Inc. of Herndon, VA. The Launch was provided by the United States Air Force Space Test Program on a Pegasus Booster on April 25, 1993. The mission was entirely controlled from a small groundstation at LANL. On 29 April 2005, after 12 years in orbit, the ALEXIS satellite reached the end of its mission and was decommissioned. The satellite exceeded expectations by operating well past its one year design life.*

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**Jaye Bullington** - October 28, 2023 at 07:41 PM

JB

“ From John Falls:

*Another story told about David was in the time frame of flying that having weapons carried on and Xraying devices becoming more prevalent, answering what is that with "A wire wrap gun", a tool used in the early days to prototype electronic designs, will quickly get you pulled aside.*

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**Jaye Bullington** - October 28, 2023 at 07:34 PM

JB

“ *From John Falls*

*David and I worked on the first design of the GBD (Global Burst Detection) system and were part of the delivery team. It was just David and I on one particular delivery and we had a rental car with a new fangled feature, a trunk release pull cable. Of course we had to see what it was and how it worked, but trying it as you are driving is not recommended especially with a multi million dollar system in the trunk. Needless to say, we quickly pulled over and safely closed the trunk. Engineers!*

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**Jaye Bullington** - October 28, 2023 at 07:33 PM

JB

“ From Rex Kay

*David was one of the true heroes getting the Multi-Spectral Imager (MTI) payload designed, assembled, tested, and operational. MTI was the only program that I am aware of where Sandia had overall responsibility for the entire satellite and ground station. MTI was on-orbit and operational from a March 2000 launch until it de-orbited in May 2022. MTI collected images of the earth in visible and infrared bands. David worked on developing the payload pretty much full time from about 1995 to launch. We worked plenty of late nights, weekends, and travel. We took several trips to Hughes Danbury Optical Systems in Connecticut where we got the telescope and electronics ready for thermal vacuum testing. David wrote all of the telescope control software. We also spent time in Los Alamos where the payload was calibrated - usually one week shifts. There was also travel to the launch site at Vandenberg Air Force Base where the satellite was tested, mated to the rocket, and launched. David was essential to all of these activities. He was the kind of person who you just could count on to get it all done right. He was always positive and ready to help with anything that needed being done. He was calm, competent, and good natured, quick with a smile or laugh - a real pleasure to work with. Even when things weren't going right he never got pessimistic. His involvement in the project was one of the main reasons I always thought we would be successful. I do remember having to call him after hours at times for advice or ask him to come in to the lab- sometimes his daughter would answer the phone and ask "are you a salesman?" - I remember that an honest answer would have been "sort of..". We used to laugh about that.*

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**Jaye Bullington** - October 28, 2023 at 07:33 PM

JB

“ From Rex Kay  
MTI was designed to take images on the earth in 15 bands (colors) from visible to the thermal infrared. It had to be programmed with the places to take a picture and it would download those pictures whenever it came over the ground station which was in building 890 - usually 2-3 times per day for about 5-10 minutes each. Some of the different bands were used for materials identification. It was also designed to measure water temperature using the thermal infrared bands.

Jaye Bullington - October 28, 2023 at 07:31 PM

JB

“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Jaye Bullington - October 25, 2023 at 09:37 PM

JB

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Jaye Bullington - October 25, 2023 at 09:12 PM

JB

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Jaye Bullington - October 25, 2023 at 09:06 PM

MH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mark Hughes - October 13, 2023 at 06:28 PM

GOES FUNERAL CARE

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Goes Funeral Care & Crematory - October 12, 2023 at 12:37 PM