



Douglas Donald Padgette

October 24, 2019

Doug Padgette, a long-time resident of Atlanta and a fixture on Lake Lanier for decades, passed away peacefully in the presence of family on Thursday, October 24th. Doug was born in Saluda, SC to Davenport and Gladys Padgette on June 29, 1934, and was raised on a post-depression cotton farm where hard work, family and education were the priorities. Doug was a star athlete in basketball, football and baseball at Saluda High School, and he proceeded to Clemson University, where he was Air Force ROTC and graduated in Mechanical and Textile Engineering in 1955. He married Barbara Rogers, the love of his life, in 1955 and proceeded to Air Force pilot training, where he flew bombers out of Oklahoma, Texas and Florida during his enlistment. He joined Western Electric in 1958 in Burlington, NC, where he worked on guidance systems for ballistic missiles and studied post-graduate electrical and mechanical engineering at North Carolina State University. During this time, Doug and Barbara's sons Steve and Mark were born. Doug and family transferred to Princeton, NJ in 1963, and he then worked also in Newark and New York City and earned a Masters degree in Industrial Engineering at Lehigh University. Doug and family moved to Orlando, FL in 1968, where he continued his engineering career at General Dynamics and Hetra Corporation, while pursuing his entrepreneurial spirit by co-owning the Dixie Fiberglass boat company. Doug rejoined Western Electric in 1971 when he moved to Dunwoody to start-up the giant Western Electric cable factory on Jimmy Carter Boulevard. Doug's greatest source of pride in his work career

was starting up the first industrial-scale fiber optics manufacturing facility inside the cable plant, where the work of he and his team paved the way for the digital connectivity that drives so much of our lives today. Doug was a fixture at Berkeley Hills Golf Club for decades, and his enjoyment of golf and gin rummy, and his competitive spirit, were shared by a close-knit group of friends, many from the faculty and staff of Georgia Tech. Doug was particularly proud of "shooting his age" in golf 12 times.

Doug and Barbara discovered Lake Lanier almost immediately upon their arrival in Atlanta, and were part of the "Millionaire's Row" of houseboaters on the lake in the 1980's and 1990's. The memories of the lake and their close friendships have always been a source of immense pleasure for Doug and Barbara. They moved to Lake Lanier in 1994 after Doug's retirement, traded in their houseboat for a pontoon boat, and continued the lake lifestyle. Both loved nothing more than cruising the lake together and with family and friends. Doug is survived by his wife Barbara of Flowery Branch, GA, his sister, Bela Herlong of Saluda, SC, his son Steve and wife Dominique, of Steamboat Springs, CO, his son Mark and wife Michelle of Dacula, GA, and grandchildren Chris Padgett of Los Angeles, CA, Lauren Deavenport of Sneads Ferry, NC, Eric Padgett of Denver, CO, Hannah Padgett of Boulder, CO, Alec Padgett of Atlanta, GA, Erika Padgett of Dacula, GA, and great-granddaughter Hadley Deavenport of Sneads Ferry, NC. Doug's love for Barbara and his family will live on forever.

Funeral services will be held on Sunday, October 27, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. in the Chapel of Flanigan Funeral Home. A graveside service and interment will be on Tuesday, October 29 at 2:00 p.m. at Emory United Methodist Church in Saluda, SC.

Tribute Wall



“ *Douglas Donald Padgette*

November 08, 2022 at 07:37 PM



“ *Dear Barbara and Family, We send our sincere sympathy in the passing of Doug. We remember the "Good Old Days at Saluda High School" and our fellowship at the class of 1951 reunions. May God comfort you in the days and years to come. With Love, George Ray and Dot Metts, Saluda, S.C.*

Dot Metts - October 27, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Barbara, Steve, Mark, Bela and Family, We were deeply sadden to hear of Doug's passing. Doug and I have been close friends (like Brothers) since we joined Western Electric in 1971. We were partners in the developing and introducing Fiber Optics for AT&T. I learned to love his family and Saluda, S.C. from our many conversations and Bela's book. Please accept our most sincere condolence and be assured that you are in our thoughts and prayers...Jack & Mary Andrews*

Jack & Mary Andrews - October 26, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our condolences to the family. I wish we had gotten to know Doug better in the short time we have lived in the neighborhood. He has a lovely wife and Doug was a very interesting man. Chris and Dana Kessler.*

Chris and Dana Kessler - October 25, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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“ We will certainly miss Doug. What a gentlemen he was to all. I was so impressed with his love for his wife. Barbara. What an awesome and loving couple.

Drema Thompson - October 25, 2019 at 12:00 AM