



Bruce Guenther
October 13, 1943 - January 18, 2022

Beloved husband, father, and grandfather, Bruce Guenther died peacefully on Jan. 18, 2022 at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, MD. His legacy on Earth stretched from his love of family and extended friend and community network, to the world, through his devotion to climate observation and science.

Bruce is survived by his beloved wife of 58 years, Sue (Condon), his son Stephen and wife Lesley of Bellefonte, PA, and his granddaughters Eva Sue and Lilly Ann. Bruce is also survived by his brother Karl Guenther and wife Carol, of Lancaster, PA.

Born in Hazleton, PA, Bruce graduated from Gettysburg College with a BS in Physics, and went on to earn his MS and PhD in Physics from the University of Pittsburgh.

Over a 30-year NASA career, Bruce developed satellite instruments that underpin much of what we understand about how our home planet's environmental system works. These satellites look down at the Earth and detect fires, power outages, weather events, pollution in the atmosphere, snow and ice, and dangerous red tides, among many other things. They work as well as they do, in large measure, because of the meticulous attention Bruce paid to technical detail and the science it would enable. And for Bruce, the excitement of launch day for a new satellite never diminished.

Bruce left a personal impact on his community as positive and as profound as his professional achievements. Over 35 years ago, Bruce started the Silver Spring Presbyterian Child Care Center to provide affordable, high quality infant/toddler care and an accredited nursery school to neighborhood residents. He donated his time and resources to many non-profits over the years because he believed in the power of supporting people working to make a difference in their community.

Bruce was deeply committed to liberal arts education (especially his beloved Gettysburg College), being

a lifelong learner, critical thinker, and patron of the arts. He held a particular fondness for the Arena Stage in Washington, DC because it features contemporary American playwrights and shines a light on both the wonders and challenges of American life.

Few things delighted Bruce more than fall weekends when he could indulge his love of both the Pittsburgh Steelers and University of Pittsburgh football. It must be said, though, that he did not let this passion get in the way of lasting friendships with at least a few Patriots fans.

For many, the most enduring memory of Bruce will be how much he absolutely loved living and how he managed to find fun even in the most challenging of times. Whether enjoying wine with friends or a Color Run with Eva and Lilly, we will remember Bruce for his smile and that ever-present twinkle in his eye.

Due to the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, a celebration of life will be planned in the spring.

In lieu of flowers and in honor of Bruce's commitment to good people doing good work, the family asks that donations be made to community charities working to improve life close to home.