

Hans J. Huth



Hans J. Huth of Austin, Texas, a retired mechanical engineer who reveled in sailing the sparkling waters of Lake Travis with his wife of 63 years and their two sons and families, died peacefully Sunday, January 23, 2022, after a battle with lymphoma cancer. He was 90.

He was born the second of six children of a Lutheran pastor in Cleeburg near Frankfurt, Germany, in 1931. He graduated from an academic and science high school in Germany in 1951 and immigrated to the United States in 1952. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1953 during the Korean Conflict, but blessedly received orders to Germany, instead, to serve as a finance clerk and translator at U.S. installations there.

After returning to the United States, he earned his engineering degree in 1959 from Penn State University, where he met and married his wife, Maria. He then joined IBM in Endicott, N.Y., where IBM provided Professors to earn his master's in mechanical engineering from Syracuse University.

Over the next 32 years, as computers moved from specialized giants for academics to desktop portables for everyone, his career in designing new technologies took him and his family from New York to New Jersey to North Carolina and finally to Texas. Along the way, he worked primarily in new product development and at one point won the company's most prestigious Corporate Outstanding Contribution Award for an incredibly ingenious ink innovation.

His focus was just as much on his family in those busy work years. The youngest of his two sons, John, who had a long career in investment technology, recalls the endless hours his dad spent with him earning bear claw badges in Indian Guides. His son Roger, a corporate fraud investigator, remembers the many weekends racing sailboats on Kerr Lake and bicycling in Pace Bend Park and driving long distances to fly unpowered gliders, as Hans was also a glider pilot. He rarely missed any of his sons' soccer games, which became a big commitment since they played continuously through college.

He retired from IBM in 1991 but, capitalizing on his language and science background quickly started his own part-time, technical translation business. He retired full-time in 1997.

In the beginning of the next 25 years, he designed and monitored the construction of their retirement home atop a hill in Spicewood with a view of Lake Travis that inevitably became his happy place. The spacious acreage offered him room enough for a woodworking shop to build some splendid split-cedar and cypress furniture, host giant extended family gatherings, and provide parking for his various sailboats, kayaks, and the compact Casita trailer he and Maria would take to the far west and Canada, and then to Wisconsin and New England to see the fall leaves and to Washington state, and Michigan to visit relatives and old friends. During the most recent year, Hans and Maria lived in a senior living center in the Lakeway area.

When they weren't on the road, Hans could usually be found quietly reading, often with one of the half dozen dogs he had along the way nuzzled up next to him. Still, given the chance or the slightest hint, he would willingly take off to sail with family or friends on some irresistible waterway or Caribbean shore, wherein so many ways he was his most relaxed.

Besides his wife, Maria, and his two sons, Roger and John, and their wives, Chrystal and Tania, and grandchildren, Emily and Nicholas, he is survived by his older sister Hilde Heyduck-Huth, younger sister, Renata Fess, and brothers Reinhard and Eckhard Huth as well as many nieces and nephews in Germany; also sisters-in-law Trudi Garland (and husband Bruce) of California and Kitty Chism of Arkansas. He was preceded in death by his brother Volker.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to Doctors Without Borders at (888) 392-0392, or St Jude Children's Cancer Research Hospital (800)-822-6344.

Published in Austin American Statesman, <https://www.statesman.com/obituaries/p0186102>
Posted online on January 26, 2022