



Thurman Delna Kitchin III

October 18, 1940 - June 4, 2021

Thurman Delna Kitchin III (better known as "T") was born October 18, 1940 on a dairy farm in Wake Forest, North Carolina. He collapsed unexpectedly from a heart attack while on his daily walk on Thursday and passed away on Friday, June 4, 2021. He is preceded in death by his parents Thurman Delna Kitchin II and Nancy Lee Kitchin, and by his son Thurman Delna Kitchin IV. He is survived by his wonderful wife of 45 years, Janne Kitchin. He is also survived by his siblings Dr. John Kitchin, Dr. William Kitchin and spouse Beverly, and Lee Brown McCorristan and spouse Paul; his six children: Dr. Patty Kitchin and spouse Mark Leach, Julie Futch and spouse Jef, Anna Meyer and spouse Jimbo, Sarah Buell and spouse Bobby, Rebecca Zollars and spouse Scott, and John Kitchin. He is also survived by 15 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

T was a pioneer in the development of weapon systems used for the defense of the United States of America. He was the founder, owner and CEO of Orlando Technology, Inc. (OTI).

In the early days after T founded OTI, the company competed against the largest US defense contractors for the development of defense systems. It soon became apparent to the US defense industry that competing against OTI within Mr. Kitchin's area of expertise was a lost cause.

OTI's reputation for excellence in the design and development of defense systems spread worldwide. In 1988-1989, T sold Orlando Technology to the predecessor firm of what is now known as Daimler-Benz Aerospace. Today the expertise and excellence of OTI is a part of the General Dynamics family of companies.

Thurman D. Kitchin will long be remembered for his significant contributions to the defense of the United States of America.

T always had a "glass is half-full" outlook on life and genuinely loved his family and their various exploits. T and Janne were adventurous and loved to travel the world together. T encouraged all of us to do what we loved, do it to our best and, most importantly, have fun along the way. He supported all of us through thick and thin, he was there cheering at our accomplishments ('living large') and supporting us through the difficulties ('knock it off, you knuckleheads'). He loved playing golf, which we expect he is doing right now. He loved playing with his kids and would spend hours at a time throwing the frisbee, snow skiing, or pulling them on water skis. He genuinely loved being around his multitude of friends, from his golf outings at Interlachen and other courses to extended breakfasts at Panera. He also found fulfillment in volunteering with the Wounded Warrior Outdoors, taking wounded soldiers hunting and fishing. He has left a gaping hole in all our lives.

We will celebrate his life at a wake Tuesday, June 8, 2021 between 6pm-8pm at DeGusipe Funeral home: <https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com/> and would love to shares stories with his friends. Private family services will follow later in the week. Please feel free to come and go and dress is casual. In lieu of flowers please consider donating to the Wounded Warrior Outdoors in memory of T: <http://woundedwarrioroutdoors.com/donate/>.

Previous Events

Viewing

JUN 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Maitland Chapel

9001 N. Orlando Ave

Maitland, FL 32751

(407) 695-2273

todd@degusipe.com

<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall

SL

“ *May the Lord, with tender mercy, love, and infinite wisdom, comfort all of you during this time of shock and unbearable grief...this man quietly gave so much of himself, and was an inspiration to my son and I'm sure so many others...my thanks and gratitude to Thurman Kitchin III, may he rest in peace...Peace be with you all, always..*



Sharon Langdon

Sharon Langdon - June 09, 2021 at 12:16 AM

BG

“ *Condolences to the entire family, especially his beautiful, knowledgeable wife, Janne. T and my husband Howie must be continuing their conversations together, wherever they are. They were great friends, except Howie did not golf! Although T always referred to himself as a "redneck" and chided us on our New England accent, he was always the perfect gentleman, at least in my presence. May the family find solace in the fact T did not suffer for any length of time.*

Barbara Gold

Barbara Gold - June 07, 2021 at 05:14 PM

SG

“ *Janne and family...My condolences on your loss. May his memory be a blessing. I always enjoyed our conversations when I would come to Orlando to visit my folks.*

Stan Gold - June 06, 2021 at 09:17 PM