

Frederick C. Thompson (1929-2017)

Frederic C. Thompson was born on September 19, 1929 in Boston, MA and passed away May 22nd, 2017. At the age of 3 months old he moved to Chicago, courtesy of his parents, Dr. Willard Owen Thompson and Dr. Phebe K. Thompson, both endocrinologists. Frederic (Fred) was educated at The Boys Latin School of Chicago, the Phillips Academy, Andover, MA., received his BSEE from Northwestern University (after serving four years in the Air Force during the Korean War), and received an MSM from the University of Southern California.

His first job was for the National Laboratory in Livermore, California and his job from which he retired in 2000 was at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. He spent many years with satellites, observing on Mt. Hamilton (near San Jose, California) nightly for a published "The Visual Magnitude of a Passive, Cylindrical, Earth-Oriented Satellite", tracking them at stations on Antigua, Oahu, and other places in the world. He was working for Lockheed, Sunnyvale at that time.

In 1971 a recession hit and all contracts were cancelled. Fred managed to hire on with Lockheed International for a two- year contract and was sent to Saudi Arabia. Before going to Saudi the team went to London for several weeks where they commuted daily to Chelmsford to the Marconi plant for training. There was no telephone system then in the country so that was the work they were to accomplish. It was not modern back then. Mail was censored, pictures that didn't make the country look good were removed, and it took more than 2 weeks for a letter to get to California.

Because of the mail delay, Caroline decided to move "somewhere closer" so letters would be sooner. They stored the furniture, each of the three children packed one bag, they got one-way tickets and went to London. Fred arrived for his annual holiday and they took a Brit-Rail trip. Edinburgh, Scotland was the first stop and they decided to live there while Fred was in the Mideast. They found a nice house with 3 bedrooms in Colinton, the area where Robert Louis Stevenson's Grandfather was pastor of the church. The manse overlooked the river and it was lovely to walk along the river all the way to the sea. The family loved living there, Chris formed life-long friendships who are my Facebook friends too. We didn't have a car for

a long time so the garage was the neighborhood clubhouse.

Readjusting to the fast pace of the USA was hard. Fred eventually got back on with Lockheed but what had been a 10 minute commute from Los Gatos had become a 45 minute nightmare. A Saturday afternoon outing at a Santa Clara theme park became a job interview when we went to the Marriot to eat lunch as Texas Instruments was there.

One of his favorite positions was with Texas Instruments in Houston. In his capacity there, he was sent to Singapore for several months for computer chip work. Fred and his wife enjoyed being in Singapore very much, especially the food. They liked the entire team. They just didn't like Houston .

Back in Houston, he met with an old friend, the late John Young of Las Cruces, who persuaded the couple to visit and perhaps relocate to a position at White Sands. Fred liked the idea of golf in a dry climate and working at HELSTF, so moved over here in the '80s.

In mid '80s the company he worked for received the prime contract to build Perimeter Security for the United States Embassies in Athens, Greece; Khartoum, Sudan; Kuwait City, Kuwait; and Bagdad, Iraq. The home base was to be Athens and Fred was put in charge. His subcontractor was Bechtel. Besides protecting the Embassy, the job also protected the Ambassador's house and the Marine Barracks. These were very interesting years for Fred and his wife as they received both the American holidays and the Greek holidays. They traveled nearly every weekend to different destinations on the mainland or on the islands. They would say they had probably been to more of Greece than any Greek. They made many Greek friends and an American friend who had been teaching Greek Dancing to Greeks for 18 years and an American friend who taught weaving, dying and other textile arts in Athens.

When his two years in Greece came to a close the company sent him to Virginia for six months, allowing the Midwest couple to enjoy the many historical and beautiful sights in and around Washington, Maryland, Pennsylvania, etc on the weekends. Then back to California to Port Hueneme to work on the AEGIS combat system program for the US Navy. He worked there until the contract ended in October 1989. On October 17th the earthquake that interrupted the World Series and knocked out a San

Francisco bridge also moved the Thompson's home in Los Gatos, California off the foundation.

After massive reconstruction the Thompsons moved back in. In 1991 Fred moved to Santa Fe to commute to Los Alamos. All the family loved coming to visit their home in Sun Mountain Estates. Caroline's Mother was living with them and the 2 grandbabies, Ceilidh Schwartz and Sarah Luschei, daughters of Ellen Thompson Schwartz and Edan T. Luschei, were frequent visitors for everyone's delight.

Fred helped develop the "As Built Program" for Johnson Controls in Los Alamos. He enjoyed his work environment, his work, and his neighbors. He decided to retire when he turned 70 and they moved back to Las Cruces in January 2000.

Fred played golf every day the University course was open. He enjoyed his golfing companions and when his back started hurting so much he was sorry to give it all up.

Fred and Caroline had always planned their vacations around travel and did mainly independent car travel in England and Scotland, always seeing friends in Scotland and Germany. Later they went with Purdue and Northwestern travel groups, cruised on small ships on the Eastern Inland Waterway as well as the western routes to Alaska. The blue ice gave them such a thrill that they went on the Hertigrutin to Greenland and traveled on an Iceland Air bus trip around Iceland.

Predeceasing Fred was his brother Willard Owen Thompson, Jr. of Arlington Heights, Illinois.

Surviving Fred is his wife of 61 years, Caroline; his children: Frederic "Chris" Jr and Gisele Thompson of Bel Air, MD; Ellen McKeigan Thompson and Mark Schwartz; Edan McRae Thompson and Eric Luschei; Grand children include Kristen Thompson and Casey Wallace; Aron Smith; Kris, Brandon, Austin and Ceilidh Schwartz; and Sarah and Colin Luschei. Great Grandchildren include Kennedy and Carter Wallace and Jake Wapaha. Other relatives include his younger brother, Donald McRae Thompson, JD of Chicago, his sister, Nancy Kirstan Thompson of Whiting, Indiana; his nephew, Willard Owen Thompson III and Mel of Oak Park, IL; and Grand

Nephews Evan and Craig Thompson.

Fred, having been cheering the Chicago Cubs for more than 80 years, leaves his beloved cat, Cubbie, who misses him terribly.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Fred and Caroline Thompson Endowed Scholarship for Choral Music at NMSU Foundation or to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

A service for Fred will take place at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on Alameda St. on Wednesday June 7th at 10:30 and a Military burial will take place June 30 in Santa Fe, NM.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of La Paz - Graham's Funeral Home 555 West Amador Las Cruces NM 88001. To sign the local online guest book visit La Paz - Graham's Funeral Home : Las Cruces, New Mexico (NM)

To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

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