

Dr. George D. Detlefsen was born on April 8, 1944 in Baton Rouge, La. His parents John and Eleoner Detlefsen, raised George and his sister, Ellen Gay, to value formal learning. Following the family tradition, George graduated from Dartmouth College and eventually earned his doctorate degree in Manchester, England in Computer Science. He became a pioneer in the development of computer time-sharing and a research scientist with General Electric.

His special skill was uniting the cyber and physical elements - essentially the mind and body of the computer world. His professional achievements are many. He worked with Technicon Corp. and headed up a team responsible for automating several factories for General Motors. Later, he worked with WRIST and Interlinear Designs to develop paperless solutions for government and industry. One of the projects he headed up involved creating digitalized copies of the millions of engineering documents related to the Hubbel Space Telescope. As a senior consultant for Price Waterhouse Coopers, he led the IT operations associated with the privatization of US military bases.

In 1976, he was appointed as a professor of computer science at UC Berkeley. As he pulled into Berkeley after driving across the US, he parked in front of the local Unification Church center. He was invited in for dinner and decided to stay. Inspired by the teachings of Reverend Moon, which emphasized the unity of science and religion, he decided to dedicate his life to God and use his many talents to help others.

George was brilliant but never condescending. The members fondly referred to the professor as "Dr. George" and George came to be recognized as the one who could fix anything! He was easy to talk to, always happy to teach and mentor, and willing day and night to tackle the hardest task. George was always inventing, and prior to his illness, he was planning to work on the development of optical scanners to improve the technology of scanning and searching text documents. As he became more disabled from Parkinson disease, he found great joy in restoring old computers for the people of Niger, Africa.

In 1982, George was blessed in marriage to Patricia Gruzinski. From this union came two boys, Nathanael and Shinghi. George has another son, August from a former marriage. George never lost his child's heart, and he enjoyed participating with his sons at their martial arts classes, and playing paintball with them. George and Patricia and their children have lived primarily in California and Northern Virginia.

His last wish was to set up a Memorial Fund in support of The World Peace King Bridge Tunnel, to be constructed between Alaska and Russia. If you want to honor his memory, please make a contribution of any amount payable to HSA UWC, and noted for the George Detlefsen Memorial Fund. All donations will be tax deductible.