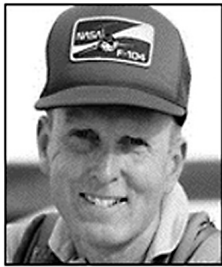


Oct. 11, 1936-Aug. 21, 2013



Charles Gordon Fullerton, 76, of Lancaster, Calif., passed away Aug. 21, 2013 in Lancaster.

He was born on Oct. 11, 1936, in Rochester, N.Y., to his parents, Mr. Charles Fullerton and Mrs. Grace Fullerton. Gordon was the oldest of three children.

He married Marie J. Buettner in Delphos, Ohio, on July 6, 1968. They had two children.

Gordon was an Eagle Scout. He attended California Institute of Technology and graduated in 1958 with a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He retired as a United States Air Force Colonel after 30 years of service. Fullerton flew nuclear bombers for the Strategic Air Command during the Cold War, joined the astronaut corps at the end of the Apollo program and helped design and test the space shuttle. He flew the shuttle Enterprise in three of its five test flights. Eventually, he logged 382 hours in space during his two shuttle flights, STS-3 and 51-F. Gordon later spent some 20 years as a research pilot for NASA Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards Air Force Base, often at the controls of the B-52 mothership and 747 shuttle carrier aircraft. Gordon's passions included spending time with his five grandchildren, hiking, long bike rides and Saturday morning garage sales.

Gordon will be remembered by his loving wife and their children, Molly Mansubi and Andy (Kathleen) Fullerton; five grandchildren, Kobe, Cameron and Kyle Mansubi and Keira and Elise Fullerton. He is also survived by his two sisters, Jeanne Schulz and Ann Fullerton.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles R. and Grace (Sherman) Fullerton.

Relatives and friends were invited to a Mass for the Resurrection in celebration for Gordon at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 24 at Sacred Heart Church, 565 West Kettering, Lancaster, Calif. 93534. A Celebration of Life was held at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 26 at NASA Dryden, Edwards Air Force Base. Interment will take place at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations may be sent to Dog Tags for Military Kids, 661-940-7624; ProCare Hospice, 1-888-573-7305 and Boy Scouts of America.

To send condolences to Marie Fullerton, contact her at 44046 28th St. West, Lancaster, CA 93536 or mfnurse@yahoo.com.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Halley Olsen Murphy, Lancaster Chapel, [www.homlanaster.com](http://www.homlanaster.com).

A full biography of Fullerton is available online at [www.nasa.gov/content/retired-nasa-astronaut-test-pilot-gordon-fullerton-dies/#.Uhu5p7aXPvY](http://www.nasa.gov/content/retired-nasa-astronaut-test-pilot-gordon-fullerton-dies/#.Uhu5p7aXPvY), which includes a video about Gordon, and [www.nasa.gov/centers/dryden/news/Biographies/Pilots/bd-dfrc-p004.html](http://www.nasa.gov/centers/dryden/news/Biographies/Pilots/bd-dfrc-p004.html).