



Hollis Phillip Posey

December 1, 1944 - December 14, 2023

Hollis Phillip Posey was born on December 1, 1944, in Santa Barbara, California, and raised in Brookhaven, Mississippi. He endured many childhood challenges, including the loss of his mother at age 4 and his father at age 19. He persevered, working his way through the Mississippi State University School of Engineering as a first-generation college student, and receiving both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in electrical engineering. However, he would say that his greatest accomplishment in college was meeting the love of his life, Cay, marrying in 1968.

In 1969, Hollis and Cay moved to North Carolina to begin a new life and family, and Hollis began his career at IBM. Hollis contributed to developing technologies that we now take for granted, including IBM's first ATM and the UPC barcode. After holding multiple technical, managerial, and executive positions, Hollis retired in 2006 as an IBM Distinguished Engineer and Chief Technical Officer of the Retail Store Solutions division.

Though he had a lengthy and distinguished career, Hollis's highest priority was always providing for his family; he sacrificed several professional opportunities to ensure that his wife and children had the secure and stable home that he did not.

Hollis served his church for decades by volunteering in lay leadership roles, teaching adult and youth Sunday School classes, leading Bible Study Fellowship groups, and participating in Walk to Emmaus retreats. He served the community as a youth soccer coach for over a decade, and in later years

volunteered in the Color Guard of the North Carolina Society of the Sons of the Revolution. He was always ready to teach or advise young people as requested.

Hollis passed away on December 14, 2023, at age 79, after a long and fiercely-fought battle with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Cay; his sister, Charmaine, and his brother, Michael; his three children, Celeste, Bari, and Jay, and their spouses; one former son-in-law; ten grandchildren, one granddaughter-in-law, two bonus grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He was blessed to hold his great-granddaughter just a few short weeks before his death. He also leaves behind beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins, and a host of colleagues, neighbors, and other dear friends.

We honor the legacy Hollis leaves as a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, mentor, teacher, and friend. The world is a better place for the life that he lived.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Cary Alliance Church Missions Fund (4108 Ten Ten Rd, Apex, NC 27539) or to support the Hollis Phillip Posey/James Rye Barton Endowed Scholarship to provide tuition support to future first-generation students in the College of Engineering at Mississippi State University (<https://dda.msstate.edu/give-now?f=502732>).

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **19**. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Cary Alliance Church
4108 Ten Ten Road
Apex, NC 27539

Funeral Service

DEC **19**. 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

Cary Alliance Church
4108 Ten Ten Road
Apex, NC 27539

Tribute Wall

TK

“*Cay, Celeste, Bari, and Jay, I am so sorry for your significant loss. Not only yours but for all of us who came into his presence. I worked many years on projects with Hollis at IBM; he as the technical lead and me from marketing and strategy just trying to keep up. We survived many months leading efforts during quality issues reporting to our GM, Kathy Vieth. Kathy was known for chewing Hubba Bubba gum during meetings and had a tub of the gum on the conference room table. Hollis and I would have our weekly sessions with her and gauge the success of the meeting based on the number of Hubba Bubba wrappers that were left on the table. The more wrappers, the worse the meeting went. One of the fondest memory I have with Hollis was a flight from Toronto to RDU after visiting a customer, where we discussed Chaos Theory (it was more of Hollis teaching me about Chaos Theory). I was mesmerized for the entire two hour flight. The next week he brought me a copy of a book on Chaos Theory.*

The most important thing about my interactions with Hollis was how he was so proud and joyous talking about his family; their accomplishments, their stories, and the love that came into his eyes when talking about you.

He will be missed. Celebrate your memories of him.

Tom Kinert

Tom Kinert - December 19, 2023 at 04:19 PM