



Mark Gregory Walker

February 25, 1968 - January 3, 2025

For Mark, the stars were not for gazing. They were for touching. — friend Duffy Perkins

Mark Gregory Walker, born February 25, 1968, in Greencastle, Indiana, passed away on January 3, 2025, in Annapolis, Maryland, at the age of fifty-six.

Mark was the loving husband of Hector Barragan and best friend to their beloved dog, Lucy. He was the cherished son of Michael L. Walker and Judy Anne (Heath) Walker and a dear brother to Kristen D. (Paul) Barada. Mark was an incredibly proud uncle to nephews Heath, Sam, and Quinn Barada and a devoted brother-in-law, uncle, and great uncle in the Barragon family.

A 1986 graduate of Rushville Consolidated High School, Mark pursued his passion for engineering at Purdue University, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering in 1991. He later achieved a Master's Degree in Computer Science from Loyola Marymount University in 2004. Mark also held a 500-hour yoga teacher accreditation and aspired to pursue a master's degree in yoga upon retirement.

Beginning as a Purdue co-op electrical engineer at Hughes Aircraft in El Segundo, California, Mark joined Hughes upon graduation. His accomplished

career culminated as Senior Director of Operations and Engineering at Kratos Defense and Security in Annapolis, Maryland. His work took him across the globe, instructing satellite ground control teams in countries including China, Australia, Israel, Qatar, Japan, the Philippines, Hong Kong, France, Luxembourg, and Azerbaijan.

Known for his intelligence, work ethic, kindness, sharp sense of humor, and infectious laughter, Mark continually sought growth through his professional achievements, mentorships, yoga practice and teachings, language studies, and world travel. Stevie Nicks, Star Trek, Godzilla, Lego, and journaling were his favorite hobbies.

Two celebrations of Mark's life will be held: February 25, 2025, from 5:00–7:00 p.m., at Fish Moon Brewing Company in Rushville, Indiana, and March 25, 2025, at his final resting place in Hollywood Hills, California.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the CanSat Competition (<https://astronautical.org/events/cansat/>), an annual student design-build-launch competition for space-related topics and an organization close to Mark's heart. They will be honoring him with a yearly award given in Mark's name.

May Mark's memory bring comfort to all who knew him.

Previous Events

Celebration of life service

FEB **25**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Fish Moon Brewing Company
309 N Main Street
Rushville, IN 46173

Tribute Wall

“ I first met Mark when he was my intern at Hughes Space & Comm while he was still attending Purdue. We worked together on the first of a new series of 3-axis satellites which was being built for Optus in Australia. Mark was amazingly smart and contributed a lot even as an intern. He was hired by Hughes to work on this same program when he graduated from Purdue.

One my favorite memories happened during this program. I got sent to Australia as part of the launch/mission team while Mark remained in El Segundo, CA. Not long after I arrived in Australia, an issue was found with the Satellite Control Processor at the launch site in China. Mark and I were tasked with bringing a new control processor to China to replace the faulty one. We each flew to Hong Kong and Mark brought the control processor with him. It was in a ~2'x4' metal case that was sealed and locked. We were told that it could not be opened under any circumstances and must be referred to as “the unit” at all times to protect against technology transfer to China.

The trip to Hong Kong was Mark’s first international business travel. He arrived with three suitcase (all large!) and the unit. Because we had heard the Chinese were serving our team puppy ribs for food at the launch site, he had one suitcase full of boxes of crackers – “Chicken in a Biskit”. We flew from Hong Kong to Chengdu with the unit in its own business class seat. Two men in a minivan picked us up from the airport and headed for the city. The air was so dirty from coal that when you blew your nose, it came out black. Just outside the city, we pulled into a very large truck stop and the men hopped out and washed the minivan. You could not enter the city with a dirty vehicle! Once in the city, we were surrounded by bicyclists. The minivan came so close to hitting many of them that we were worried. Finally, just as we decided it must be ok, we hit a woman. She jumped up with blood streaming down her face and the minivan just drove on. They just said, “she up, she ok”.

The Russian planes that would have flown us from Chengdu to

Xichang where the launch site was were grounded due to some design flaw. Instead we had to take the train for ~12 hours. They handed us a card with Chinese characters with our stop name on it and told us to get off when we matched. Then a little woman about 4 feet high told us to follow her. She took off at a dead run and just smashed her way through the crowd around the train with Mark and I trying to keep up. She put us in a sleeping car that had bunk beds on one side and a table with two bench seats on the other side. There was a stick in a pot on the table. We were able to sleep in the bunk beds for a while, but we were paranoid we would miss our stop. At the 10-hour mark, we got up and looked out the window at every stop to match our card. At the 11-hour mark, Chinese train attendants brought the dirty quilts from every other car and piled them in our car. We had quilts up to our chin and had no idea why. Finally, we were able to see our stop and got off. We again were met by men in a minivan who took us to the "Big Hotel" near the launch site. Surrounding the hotel was a very tall concrete wall with concertina wire on top. We went into the hotel and checked in. A woman walked us up to our rooms on the 4th floor. They turn off the elevators at 10PM to save money, so we had to carry Mark's 3 suitcases, my duffle bag, and the unit up 3 flights of stairs.

We had many adventures in China and in Hong Kong on the return. Mark also spent several months working in Australia and living in the house I rented there. We had countless trips into Sydney and had a blast. Mark was a very good friend. Even though I lost touch with him, I always loved him dearly. I have included a couple of Hong Kong and Australia pictures.



Connie Goshgarian - May 17, 2025 at 11:14 PM

TS

“ *Mark moved next door to us in 3rd grade we hung out everyday (we had a 10 acre woods behide our houses in the country... we built amazing dams, forts with plumbing, etc...) ...he and Roy roomed together at Purdue while completing Electrical Engineering degrees. He will be missed 😞*



Troy Sparks - February 15, 2025 at 05:17 PM

KR

Best picture ever!

Kristen - February 17, 2025 at 08:59 AM