



Joel Peter Leisch

April 26, 1941 - June 30, 2022

It is with sorrow that the family announces the passing of Joel Leisch, a resident of GreenSpring, Springfield, VA since 2021 and of Northern Virginia since he moved back to the area in 2017. He was born in Baltimore, MD while his parents, Jack Leisch and Bettye Leisch (nee Holtzman), were stationed in the Blue Ridge Mountains while Jack was a surveyor and designer on the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Skyline Drive in the 1930's and early 1940's. The family later resided in Arlington, Alexandria, and Silver Spring until 1956 when they moved to Wilmette in the Chicago area.

Joel attended Purdue University in Civil Engineering attaining a BSCE. After a tour of duty in Viet Nam, with combat commendation medals, he returned to work as a consultant in Toronto. He later attended Northwestern University where he attained his MSCE. Mr. Leisch has planned or designed almost 2,000 miles of roadways and 900 interchanges throughout the US and 6 foreign countries. His focus overseas has been in Israel, where he visited 62 times, helping develop their national transportation system. Joel has taught professional development courses throughout the US, Canada, and numerous foreign countries. He is recognized as the leading expert on interchange design in the US and several foreign countries.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, his memory is cherished by his three loving daughters Jody Darrow (Paul) of West Palm Beach, FL, Alyson Kalter of Vail, CO, and Jennifer Leisch of Denver, CO. His four grandchildren, Chase, Harley, Ross, and Ari adored their Grandfather and were fortunate to have many years with him.

His memory is also cherished by his brother and sister-in-law, Gregory and Nancy Leisch of Alexandria, and nephews Mike Leisch and Jamie Leisch, for time spent with them traveling, fishing, toy train collecting, and teaching them tennis, bike riding, and skiing.

Funeral services will be held at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Drive, Alexandria, VA followed by interment at the King David Memorial Gardens National Memorial Park, 7482 Lee Highway, Falls Church, VA.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are encouraged in Joel's name to: Jack E. Leisch Memorial National Graduate Fellowship, c/o Jack E. Leisch Fellowship Committee, American Society of Engineers, 1801 Alexander Bell Drive, Reston, VA 20191.

Cemetery Details

King David Memorial Gardens

7400 Lee Highway
Falls Church, VA 22046

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUL 6. 1:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel
5755 Castlewellan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22315
(703) 971-7400
info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com
<https://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Jefferson Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Joel Peter Leisch*



Jefferson Funeral Chapel - July 03, 2022 at 03:45 PM



“ *Joel Peter Leisch*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *It seems that most of my memories of time with Joel revolve around food in the apartment we shared on Greenleaf during the summer of 1968. I can remember bagels and lox, his hibachi grill cooking and German chocolate cake from The Pickle Barrel. I also remember going to Mexican restaurants and getting overserved. Joel and Cindy were two of the 11 people who were in the wedding party when Mary and I got married. Bettye and Jack joined us for dinner party of 13! He was a good friend for almost 55 years. Michael Goodkind*

Michael Goodkind - July 06, 2022 at 12:58 PM

BB

“ As a pickleball player at Greenspring, I found it wonderful that Joel joined our group. He was an avid player, fun to play with and challenging to play against. While others would leave early, Joel usually played vigorously until the session ended.

I enjoyed talking with Joel because he and I had several things in common. We were both born in Baltimore around the same time and both had spent a lot of time in our lives playing tennis, golf, skiing and flyfishing for the elusive trout. We had fun reminiscing because it turned out that we had often visited or lived in some of the same places in the Western USA for flyfishing and skiing. The trout that Joel caught were much bigger than the small brook trout that I caught (he showed me pictures of his fish on his phone!), but it was still engaging to discuss the joy of casting a fly to the exact place where a fish (large or small) was feeding and see it leap out of the water for the strike. We also shared a love of old movies. Occasionally Joel would lend me DVDs of some of his favorites. We will miss Joel.

Lucky for me, I have not, like the O'Connors, been exposed to COVID, so I expect to be at the service to pay my respects to the family and to share their sorrow at the loss of Joel.

Blair Blunt

blair blunt - July 05, 2022 at 03:44 PM

LO

“ Long-time residents of Greenspring, and avid Pickleball players, we were so happy to welcome Joel into our Communiity. We wanted to pay our respects in person to his family tomorrow, but Covid has interrupted our plans for this week as we learned that we were exposed to the virus last night. In the short time that we knew Joel, we became friends and worthy adversaries on the court! We enjoyed his company, and will truly miss his presence, not only on the court, but throughout the community life here at Greenspring. God bless you, his family, during this time of mourning his loss.
Lynn & Roy O'Connor

Lynn O'Connor - July 05, 2022 at 12:04 PM