

## **Arthur Ray Hughes Obituary**

### **Sept. 29, 1951 – Oct. 22, 2022**

Arthur (Art/Artie) Ray Hughes, 71, of Parker, Colorado, passed peacefully at home after a long hard battle with pancreatic cancer. He was born Sept. 29, 1951 in La Junta, Colorado to Arthur Leroy and Thelma Muriel (Jaynes) Hughes. He grew up and graduated high school in La Junta.

Art's great interest in electronics started in fifth grade, when he was given a book on it by his Uncle Jess Jaynes. He began repairing tube and transistor radios and televisions when in sixth grade and continued through high school and later in a repair shop in Denver. He built a laser from scratch in seventh and eighth grade through a program with Otero Junior College.

Art worked in a professional photo lab and designed computer equipment for the lab. He helped develop an early PC, and also a computer for embedded applications. In the early 1990s, Art developed one of the first GPS guidance systems for crop dusters, which was accurate to within the width of a dime. Over the years, he did EE (Electrical Engineering) consulting and design, in both hardware and embedded software.

Art had just turned 14 when he attained the rank of Eagle Scout. He then joined the Koshare Boy Scout Troop, where he was a drummer and worked with the sound and lighting for their programs featuring Native American dances, continuing to his late teens.

Art was a kind, caring, giving, and generous man. He would help anyone with his talents. Art was also a talented musician, playing guitar and bass. He formed a band in high school, and later played bass in the Philippine Rondalla of Denver, and Note-ables International. He then played with a soft rock group called Conspiracy. He always enjoyed jamming with friends whenever an occasion arose. Art loved his zany T-shirts and also enjoyed photography, and built his own 4 by 4 camera. He had and used: a freeze dryer in the garage, and in the basement, a plastic molding machine, a CNC machine, a laser cutter, a large format printer, a 3-D printer, and an electronics lab.

Art and Linda Sue Gingerich were married Sept. 6, 1975 in a forest located near Empire, Colorado. Their daughter Natasha Lynn was born Oct. 29, 1976, and sadly only lived a short while due to a virus going through the hospital. Later, Linda developed bronchiectasis, a progressive lung disease characterized by thick mucus. After many hospitalizations, and using supplemental oxygen for a long time, Linda received a prognosis of 2 to 3 months to live. Together Art and Linda came up with the idea to use sound waves to break up the mucus. Art built a rudimentary version of what became the Vibralung. This amazing device extended Linda's life over 6 years.

After Linda passed in June 2003, Art met and married Lucille (Carpenter) Kirkpatrick on March 5, 2005 in Englewood, Colorado. Together they continued to develop the airway clearance device, starting with the animal model suggested by Dr. Roger Chase, DVM, the VibraVM, and then the Vibralung which, with FDA clearance, has over 1,500 units in use today helping patients breathe better. Art was proud to have just received the first prototypes of a new Vibralung mouthpiece in September.

Art is survived by his wife, Lucille, and her children whom he considered his own: Michael (Mary) Arndt, Gillian Romero, Peter (Amanda) Kirkpatrick, and Charles Kirkpatrick, along with grandchildren and a great grandson. He is survived by his sister Marie Rossel, and her children, Debbie Rossel, Jeff (Esther) Rossel, Greg (Jeoupei) Rossel, Brenda Sander, Bryan Rossel, and Christopher (Angee) Rossel. He is survived by his late sister Sylvia's children, Donald (Cindy) Davis, Ronald Davis, and Tammy

(Cosme) Gallegos. Art is survived by Linda's three brothers, Keith (Millie) Gingerich, Ken (Noreen) Gingerich, and Roger Gingerich. Art is also survived by Lucille's siblings: Robert and Virginia Carpenter, Peggy and Robert Latham, Ruth and Jim Butler, Shirley's husband Boyd Williston, Lee and Jerri Lynn Carpenter, Mary and Jim Mathis, Joy's husband John Horton, Edna and Dr. Roger Chase, and Paul Carpenter. He is survived by many nieces and nephews, as well as great nieces and nephews, and many wonderful friends.

*His was a life well lived!*