

Monika Schweinfurth

February 11, 1959 ~ July 29, 2022

A woman of tremendous energy, Monika Schweinfurth inspired and energized everyone she met. Moving to the United States at the age of six and starting school without knowing any English, she set the tone of learning and engagement she would keep for the rest of her life, quickly absorbing every skill she needed to flourish.

As a mother, teacher, and engineer Monika encouraged those around her to learn and develop even as she did. There was no subject out of her grasp, and nothing that was too onerous. Learning on the job was her specialty, and she was known for taking on projects where others hesitated. She always got the job done, and done right. She was the person you called when you didn't know what to do. And whether she was tutoring algebra or designing cockpit systems, when she gave you her undivided attention, you knew you were in the right hands.

Monika completed multiple university degrees while parenting her two children. She so excelled in her computer science courses that she was invited back to teach them the following term. For the past two decades, Monika worked to advance national defense aerospace technologies. She thought of the F-16, F-22, and F-35 fighters as "her" airplanes and took great satisfaction in their cutting edge avionics and software systems.

But Monika was more than her jobs. She was her passions. She loved baking, crochet, gardening, landscaping, reading, home decor, furniture restoration, competitive sailboat racing, quilting, sewing, and soap making, a list of hobbies so expansive you'd think she couldn't possibly excel at them all. But she did. Monika threw herself into her passions, exploring with the enthusiasm of a novice and the patience of a master. And she brought others with her. You couldn't help but feel excited for a project when she talked about it. You couldn't help but want to learn with her, take risks with her, and explore the world with her. She brought her passion and energy into everything she did, whether that was baking a tableful of holiday cookies, or digging a new compost heap. Monika was her energy, and that energy never flagged. Never wavered. Not when playing games with her grandchildren, not when crocheting hats for the whole family, just because she made the time.

You couldn't know Monika without feeling her passion. You couldn't feel her passion without admiring it. She was a woman who knew what she wanted in life and pursued her goals with tenacity. Who knew what she was worth and made sure she was given her due. She didn't suffer fools, but was endlessly giving to those who wanted to learn. She was a woman of passion and logic, with her feet in the garden she planted, and her thoughts tearing the sky on wings of her own design. She was herself, and knowing her was its own reward.

Monika is survived by her loving family: her parents Rosemarie and Buryl Dooley; brother, John McMillin (Candace); sister, Sandia Ruiz; son, Ludwig (Sarah); daughter, Kristina (Evan); granddaughters, Elanor, Bridget, Rhys, and Ingrid; as well as her pet dachshunds, Bear, Lily, Talulah, and Lucy. She also leaves behind many friends in the heirloom sewing, gardening, and dachshund communities where she had an enormous impact.

To all of them I say: Just wait. When at last we catch up with her, she will have already discovered all the secrets and joys of the next life and will be as willing and joyful as ever to share them with us, before finding something new to tackle.

A private service will be held for the immediate family.