



Ross Kobayashi

August 27, 1960 - March 18, 2020

Ross William Kobayashi passed away on March 18, 2020 at the age of 59. Ross was born August 27, 1960 in San Pedro, California. He went to San Pedro High School and then to USC where he graduated with a B.S in Chemical Engineering. He was on the tennis team in high school and also liked to golf and bowl. He worked hard mowing lawns to pay his way through college.

After college he lived in San Pedro until he met his wife Sharon, and eventually moved up the road to Rancho Palos Verdes. There, they raised their three children Ashley, Audrey, and Chad Kobayashi. His love for them was apparent to anyone who met them, spending most of his free time with his children throughout his whole life.

He worked for Aerospace for over 30 years and loved his job and the people that worked with him. He often talked about them as friends rather than employees or coworkers.

Ross was genuine. He was kind to everyone he met, and a friends to all. He made plenty of jokes and brightened everyone's days. He was always smiling. He will be missed deeply. He is survived by his wife, Sharon; his daughters, Ashley and Audrey; his son, Chad; his brother, Mark, and his family; and many of their cousins.

Celebration of Life date and time to be determined.

Comments



“ I was shocked to hear of Ross' passing and my heartfelt sympathy goes out to Sharon and the Kobayashi family. I met Ross at USC while we were both studying Chemical Engineering and we became good friends. We spent a lot of time at the Grinder coffee shop, Lighthouse Lanes, Marie Callendars, and Joe Jost's just to name a few.

After graduation, we used to meet at least once a year to celebrate the anniversary of our senior project (plant design) and/or graduation, but as the years rolled on we all got married, had kids and other responsibilities at home and work.

As many have stated, Ross was a generous individual who was always up for an adventure and to lend a hand when needed. I had been thinking about him and regretted not being able to meet with him again, but I am glad that someone posted video of the service and it was good to see Fred and Dave speak.

God bless the Kobayashi family and Ross I look forward having a few beers and bowling a few frames with you when we meet again.

God Bless,
Bruce Mori



Bruce Mori - August 06, 2020 at 11:59 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



James Cottingham - August 02, 2020 at 02:31 PM



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James Cottingham - August 02, 2020 at 02:30 PM



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James Cottingham - August 02, 2020 at 02:30 PM



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James Cottingham - August 02, 2020 at 02:29 PM



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James Cottingham - August 02, 2020 at 02:29 PM



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James Cottingham - August 02, 2020 at 02:28 PM



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James Cottingham - August 02, 2020 at 02:27 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Wall



James Cottingham - August 02, 2020 at 02:26 PM



“ Here is a link to the photos I have of Ross from our years of working together on the Mission Assurance Team(MAT). Unlike some, he never took a bad photo ;-)

<https://jwcotting.smugmug.com/MAT-KicktheTiresLighttheFire/Ross-Kobayashi-Through-the-Years-/>

James Cottingham - August 02, 2020 at 01:22 PM



“ i am not sure why the link is not working. try it here; <https://jwcotting.smugmug.com/MAT-KicktheTiresLighttheFire/Ross-Kobayashi-Through-the-Years-/>

James Cottingham - August 02, 2020 at 02:37 PM



“ <https://jwcotting.smugmug.com/MAT-KicktheTiresLighttheFire/Ross-Kobayashi-Through-the-Years-/>

James Cottingham - August 02, 2020 at 02:38 PM



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<https://jwcotting.smugmug.com/MAT-KicktheTiresLighttheFire/Ross-Kobayashi-Through-the-Years-/>

James Cottingham - August 02, 2020 at 01:19 PM



“ Here is a link to the movies I took at the memorial service.
I am also going to put them on youtube and put that link on the wall in case this one does not work. Jim Cottingham co-worker and friend for 25 years.

<https://jwcotting.smugmug.com/MAT-KicktheTiresLighttheFire/Ross-Kobayashi-Memorial-Service-Rancho-Palos-Verdes-Ca/>

James Cottingham - August 02, 2020 at 12:02 PM



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Brian - July 17, 2020 at 01:27 PM



“ Dear Brian, thank you for such a beautiful remembrance of Ross's life. Dear Ross, we will remember you with joy and happiness. May your soul be at peace with your parents and loved ones who went before you. You have a beautiful family. God be with your precious family and comfort them all. Until we see you again n heaven, sending you our love.

The Ploszaj Family

Diane Ploszaj - July 18, 2020 at 09:49 PM



“ Today is Father's Day. The first one since I lost my dad. It's been hard but I did want to post a little about him. He was an amazing father - full of happiness and love. He taught me so many things and took me so many places. Every time he went to museums/space exhibits, he would send me pictures. I recently started watching hockey so he bought the 3 or 5 game tickets so we could go. We would meet up at sports bars during the Dodgers games in the world series a few years back. We hung out every weekend and randomly on weekdays when he didn't come home too late. He worked so hard and he loved his jobs and all thing space related. He listened to me and always tried to help. I remember every time I would say I was feeling sick, he would make sure I was okay. And for the next few days after that he would ask me if I was feeling better and if I needed him to get me anything. He also would look into things/hobbies us kids liked, so that he could show us cool things about it or talk about it. He just really wanted to spend time with us and I really appreciated and enjoyed his company. He was my best friend. I know my thoughts are a bit jumbled up here. But Happy Father's Day to the greatest dad ever.

Love always,
Ashley



Ashley - June 21, 2020 at 06:24 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Family Friend - May 18, 2020 at 03:17 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Family Friend - May 18, 2020 at 03:13 AM



“ Dear Sharon and Family, may God comfort you all and fill your hearts with peace today and always. We will always remember Ross in our hearts. We remember Ross with his big heart, warm smile and generous spirit. If there is anything we can do, please reach out to us. Much love, The Ploszaj Family.



Family Friend - May 18, 2020 at 02:58 AM



“ Ross was a good man and a dear friend. He will be missed.
Condolences to his family.
God Speed Ross....

Dana VanDersarl - April 24, 2020 at 10:10 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Sharon Kobayashi - April 21, 2020 at 07:18 PM



“ 7 files added to the album Tribute Wall



Sharon Kobayashi - April 21, 2020 at 07:17 PM



“ Sharon, Ashley, Audrey, and Chad,

It's been a month since Ross passed away and I still can't believe it! I was shocked and saddened by the news the day it happened, and I still am today.

Ross and I worked closely together for over 21 years. He was on the government side of the Mission Assurance Team while I was the Lockheed Martin/ULA MAT Program Manager until I retired at the end of 2017 . Over the years I had the privilege to work with a person who was passionate about his job and on the mission of the team. He was technically astute, knew how to develop and nurture his team, and had a keen interest in everyone around him.

What I appreciated most about Ross besides his commitment to work and family was the multitude of interests and energy he had outside of work. His love and knowledge of trivia; he was well versed on sports, movies, personalities, music, video games, etc. I would kid him about where he found all the time to watch as many movies and sporting events, play as many games, and know so much about music as he did. I accused him many times that he never slept! He had a diverse palate and appreciation for fine spirits which I enjoyed myself and we had many memorable evenings together. His collection of personality autographs and the effort he went through to get them was remarkable. His appreciation and collection of fine art was impressive. He was truly a very intelligent, generous, and compassionate friend and leader.

We don't understand why certain things happen in life the way they do. But it is our faith that carries us forward. I pray for your healing.

Ross will be sorely missed but his memory will live on.....

Vince Molieri

Vince Molieri - April 18, 2020 at 11:26 PM



“ Sharon -

Having known Ross for over 35 years, plus working closely with him for many of those, I am full of wonderful memories. In the past month I have thought a lot about Ross and what made him such a unique person. His willingness to share his experience, beliefs, opinions, and ideas with everyone while encouraging a mutually respectful interaction, was always impressive. Ross' working time seemed to revolve around working on technical issues, building strong relationships, and finding humor wherever he could and not necessarily in that order of priority. He was such a kind and generous individual. Ross will be missed, but never forgotten by anyone that spent time with him.

My prayers are with you and your family during this time.

Dana Speece - April 17, 2020 at 06:20 PM



“ To the family of Ross Kobayashi-

Words alone cannot express the deep feeling of sadness and loss that I felt when I heard the tragic news. I am very sorry for your loss, and my family's thoughts and prayers are certainly with you in this difficult time.

I feel very fortunate to have worked closely with Ross for almost 2 years. When I first started in my current assignment, Ross went out of his way to train me, show me around, and make me feel like an important part of the Mission Assurance Team. He taught me the value nurturing relationships with our mission critical component suppliers - and with members of our team. He made the job fun, and was always willing to support and organize after work events to help with team building. In my almost 32 years in the Aerospace Industry, I've never had this feeling of being a family with those I work with, and I know Ross is the reason. It has been an absolute pleasure being a part of his team, and I sincerely thank you for the support you all provided to him in his career and demanding positions on the MAT. Without a doubt, he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. I'm sure you know that his work was critical to the security of our nation, and you have my promise to continue to support those objectives in the way Ross would have expected.

With sympathy and gratitude,

Rick Feldes

IV&V and Mission Assurance Team Program Manager NRO Program Office United Launch Alliance

Rich Feldes - April 13, 2020 at 01:58 PM



“ Have not been in touch with Ross since our days at USC. Was fortunate to be on the tennis team at San Pedro High and then spend time at USC together. Loved our Saturday's together at the USC football games, great memories and super fun times. Praying for the everyone in the family, his wife, children, relatives and friends.

George Jackson - April 12, 2020 at 01:20 AM



“ Sharon,
Joe and I send our sincere condolences to you and your family.

Trish Dixon Carpico - April 11, 2020 at 10:50 AM



“ I can't seem to put into words how saddened I was to hear that Ross had passed. My condolences to your entire family. Ross was a great man and I know he will be sorely missed. During my time as Chief Engineer on the MAT, Ross was a great mentor and advisor to me, always ready to answer questions and provide guidance. On top of that, he always brought a little levity to the team, whether it was by bringing puzzles to pass the time during long teleconferences or preparing trivia for the office. Personally, Ross helped broaden my cinematic exposure, and introduced me to what would become some of my favorite movies. ("Ready Player One" being at the top of that list.) The biggest impact Ross had on me though was his life advice. He was like an older brother to me and I greatly appreciated and valued his wisdom and perspective on family, raising kids, technology, and politics. I will miss begin able to share musings on these with Ross. Again, I am so sorry for your loss. My family and I send our heartfelt compassion and hope that you find comfort in family and friends during this trying time.

Joey Ulisse - April 10, 2020 at 10:16 AM



“ To Ross’s family,

I had the pleasure of working with Ross over the years while I was at Lockheed Martin and United Launch Alliance. I really did work closely with Ross during this time since as the Propulsion Chief Engineer for Atlas I worked closer with the propulsion members of the MAT. I retired from ULA in 2014 and started to work for the MAT the next day. As you would say I flunked retirement. When I was talking with Ross and the Air Force chair before as an interview he told me that as a member of the MAT I would look at data and discrepancies. Then he asked me if I would be interested in doing this job rather than my old management role. I told him I would really enjoy that and also enjoy the reduction in my stress level.

After coming to the MAT I had more exposure to Ross and learned very quickly to appreciate his management style. He was so smart and quick to grasp issues but also so kind and compassionate in the way he led the group. You knew that he truly wanted your opinion on an issue and respected your opinion even when you knew he did not share this view personally. You knew how much he really cared about each and every person on the team with his daily interaction. He truly walked the talk, so to speak.

He would have trivia challenges at the end of meetings and they were always fun. This was just another way he would remove the stress of the job and getting people to relax and have fun. I was really amazed at just how wide his interests went and how much trivia he knew. His sense of humor was great and he could always bring a smile to my face.

Ross and I shared a love of bourbon and when I was out and found a new bourbon I would send him a text to let him know about the new find. He would do the same with me personally or with a group of MAT members that enjoyed bourbon or scotch. I really looked forward to getting and sending those texts to him.

Being a contractor and working from home I did not get to interact in person with Ross much. I truly loved the yearly MAT summit meetings where all members would travel to a location and spend some time together face-to-face. At these meetings I would get to interact with all team members and with Ross. I would always try to spend some time with Ross after the meetings socially. I really enjoyed getting to know Ross better in a social setting instead of just as the boss.

I was so shocked when I got the news of his passing. I got an e-mail and I could not do anything but sit there and think for a while after getting the news. After about 10 minutes I had to get up and go pick up my 9 month old granddaughter and tell her how much I loved her. I could not think of anything more fitting to do. I know Ross would want us all to focus on the future and our families!

Ross was a great man and I thank God that I got to have him as a part of my life even for the short time it was. He led by example and I learned a lot from him. I have worked with many people in my 41 year professional career and he can be counted on one of my fingers as one of the best I had the pleasure to work with. I still miss him greatly and a part of me still cannot believe he is gone. I know he would want us

all to carry on and relish our memories of him and to support each other as much as we can.

I am not a big picture guy and thus I do not have pictures I can share that I took but the many that have been shared capture him and his memory will be with me the rest of my days. The old saying that only the good die young certainly applies to Ross.

Rest in peace my mentor, boss and more importantly my friend!

Dale Balu

Dale Balu - April 08, 2020 at 03:48 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Wall



Steve Escalante - April 08, 2020 at 10:51 AM



“ One of the traits in Ross that I admired the most was his ability to adapt. To be open minded and to try things that were outside of his considerable experience. Whether it was different foods, new recipes, Sous Vide cooking and eventually smoked meats, Ross approached each new adventure with gusto and passion.

This particular adventure was in Utah. While Ross was already an accomplished marksman, he relished the opportunity to see if he could master a different way to hurl metal at targets. As with every new challenge, Ross approached the task with patience and a smile. The results of his methods speak for themselves.

Steve Escalante - April 08, 2020 at 12:04 PM



“ 7 files added to the album Tribute Wall



Jim Cottingham - April 06, 2020 at 04:23 PM



“ I feel like I've known Ross for so long. I would see him at work in the hall and in meetings. I would always be impressed at his knowledge and how everyone would pay close attention when he would bring up an issue or answer a question.

Then one day, I overheard a conversation he was having with a coworker about the Marvel Universe, then it was action movies, then Pokémon, then the best burger joints. Like so many others, I was drawn into these talks and found a great friend.

I am very grateful for that time, but I'm heartbroken too. Too soon departed. All my condolences to the Kobayashi family.

- Kimi Rocha

Kimi - April 06, 2020 at 02:04 PM



“ I had the honor to meet Ross last year and we quickly became fast friends. Almost every other morning, Ross would stop by and pay us all a visit. He'd always take the time to ask all of us how we were doing and would often take the time to bring us treats.

I have a lot of fond memories with him. Monday mornings when he could come in my office, he would talk about the weekend, how he spent time with his family and played Pokémon and tried some new recipes. During one of our trips, he helped organized a pokemon trip for all us to raid and spend time together. I also remember how he loved collecting comics and memorabilia and we would spent countless hours just talking about comics.

Ross will truly be missed, his warmth and the joy that he brought was like no other.

My deepest condolences to the Kobayashi family during this difficult time.

-Johnny Chau

Johnny C - April 06, 2020 at 12:30 PM



“ No words can describe my loss of a great friend, and a tremendous colleague. I was shocked by the news and then overwhelmed with sadness. We were working in the Mission Assurance Team as part of the Aerospace Corporation for over 20 year, and he led the team for the last 15 years. There were countless NRO missions that we were involved. He was sharp and knowledgeable in the critical launch processes. His heart and mind were on the missions as soon as they were assigned. Most importantly, he refused to let any issues buried without his famous digging for truth and resolution. Over the years, we worked late nights, weekends, and holidays away from home to resolved issues, tough risk mitigation, and support of missions beyond the call of duties.

As a great friend, Ross never let tasks consumed his life and shared abundance of eating pleasures of many sensational dishes. We shared many unforgettable meals from around the South Bay to the major cities that we travel to for mission support. It wasn't just the food, his insight to current affair, many political events, and opinions added a lot to show his character to ethics and social environments. I also learned so much about the sports and Hollywood movies from him as a true USC grad. There were so many memorable trips for work not just mission accomplished but also the fun and enjoyment of life. I'm going to miss you, Ross.

My deep condolence to Sharon, Ashley, Audrey, and Chad for their loss. I pray God to be with you, as Ross loves his family so much.

Bill

William Wang - April 06, 2020 at 07:42 AM



“ To Ross's Family,

I was shocked to here of Ross's passing. As Mission Assurance Team Tech Chair, he was technically smart and politically astute in his roll. He was a very approachable person and I enjoyed very much supporting his technical requests.

There is too much death and destruction in our lives at this time, without loosing a good friend.

My sincerest condolences to his family and friends. He will be sorely missed.

Sincerest Regards,

Joe Rybicki
Senior Staff Eng. Propulsion (retired)
United Launch Alliance
Centennial, Colorado

Joe Rybicki - April 05, 2020 at 11:39 PM



“ I got to know Ross about 6 years ago when I started working with him. I work from home in Utah, so I was only with him maybe every few months on a business trip. But he made an impact on my life with his big heart and smile, his great sense of humor, and his kindness. I loved his brain teasers during our team dinners. I ate dinner with him alone once at a Thai restaurant, and enjoyed getting to know him better; i was impressed with how hot he liked his crispy fish! The morning that Ross passed away, we had a 5.7 earthquake here in Utah that broke a vase in our home 90 miles away. I said that it was the earth groaning about the passing of this great man. We are praying for you during this very difficult time that you will receive the comfort and healing you need.

Steve Wassom - April 05, 2020 at 02:40 PM



“ I had the extreme honor of meeting Ross in 1995. Over the years we became friends due to our love of action movies. He knew of my special love for Jason Statham and would bring me pictures of him to keep in my "stash".

I often referred to Ross as my dealer, movie dealer that is...he would often share his vast collection of movies with me. On our way out for the day we'd go to his car, he'd open his trunk and tell me to take my pick of the latest movies he was storing in there.

Within the last year we became Pokémon friends. He taught me about the game, and we even met up in Old Towne Torrance to do raids together a couple times. One time he told my son to help me work on my spinning throws, so I'd "catch 'em all".

Ross, his huge heart, his laugh, his love for his family, his movie collection and his Sudowoodo dance (in cowboy boots) will be greatly missed.

Thank you for always making me laugh!

My heart goes out to you, his family and friends, at this time. Sending prayers and deepest condolences.

Jaime Cabrera - April 04, 2020 at 02:50 AM



“ I worked with Ross off and on for over 30 years, starting off from our days in the Labs. His sudden and far too soon death really shocked me, and I shared it with my kids as an example that we never know what tomorrow has in store for us. Ross was a great engineer and is already missed. Rest in Peace, Ross and my condolences to the Kobayashi Family. May God give you strength in this difficult time.

Paul Brennan - April 03, 2020 at 05:13 PM



“ I've known Ross for about 25 years. We were co-workers, but eating out while TDY was a serious part of our friendship. Ross enjoyed life and was one of the kindest persons I've met. I've seen him angry, but never an angry word to anyone. Rest in Paradise Ross.

Bee Jay

Bernard Jones - April 03, 2020 at 01:51 PM



“ I had the great privilege of working with Ross in the Materials Sciences Laboratory from 1985 to 1991. I briefly returned to Aerospace in 1996-97. I haven't spoken to him in over 20 years but the memories of us young guys working together and hanging out after work has stayed with me all these years. That's what a great friend he was. May God Bless this fine man.

James Noblet - April 03, 2020 at 01:27 PM



“ I have worked with Ross for over 20-yrns -- his expertise and leadership in making sure the launch vehicles would be successful will be missed, but his team will press forward. What we'll really miss is Ross' mentorship and friendship. Everybody loved Ross and he will be missed greatly -- God Bless

Jeff Jacobs - April 03, 2020 at 01:11 PM



“ I had the pleasure to have personally worked with Ross since the early days of development of the Delta III and Delta IV vehicles, starting around 1995. We were all younger then. I had seen him repeatedly while I was working at Aerospace in the 2000's, and he came out to Decatur for pedigree reviews and the like while I was managing that office. Even while I was at Blue Origin, Russ managed to visit us in Kent on a number of occasions, and he was always polite and inciteful at every turn. I will miss him. A wonderful person through character and ability.

Ed Schatzman - April 03, 2020 at 01:10 PM



“ Ray Koh lit a candle in memory of Ross Kobayashi



Ray Koh - April 03, 2020 at 11:49 AM



“ I did a lot of grieving the evening I received an email from my manager about Ross' passing . . . and still continue to do so. I talked to my family about Ross that evening including my daughter who works as a grief counselor for San Diego County. The gathering of Ross' team (The MAT) of past and present members on the morning after just to talk did more towards healing for me due to the common bond we shared with Ross. I don't think there was a dry eye that morning.

The MAT is Ross' professional legacy and has become my extended family. By far the team that Ross led has been the best group of professionals and friends in my 35-year career, and Ross was a very big part of that. He was a genuinely kind and generous leader that really cared for his people. I'm going to miss him dearly and will pray for Ross, his family, and everyone that loved him.

With much sorrow,
Ray Koh

Ray Koh - April 03, 2020 at 11:16 AM



“ I met Ross in high school 1976. We spent countless hours paling around throughout the years. He was always very generous to me and we helped each other lots of times. We had many great conversations over coffee and pie at Marie Calendars. I know he deeply cared for his family and friends, so he will be missed by many. My condolences and prayers. Dave Lindsay

David Lindsay - April 02, 2020 at 01:21 PM



“ I found it easy to talk and laugh with Ross when I met him through my to-be-husband David Lindsay. He was a groomsman in my wedding San Pedro 1988. Wow this was a shocker but even social distancing won't stop my prayers for the Kobayashi Family.
DIANA

Diana Lindsay - April 02, 2020 at 12:34 PM