



George Roe Huson, Jr., a rocket scientist who helped build the engines that sent men to the moon and built a space-based global communications system, passed away on October 24, 2022, at age 93.

He was born in Brooklyn, NY, at the start of the Depression on October 12, 1929, to Lillian Lomax Huson and George Roe Huson Sr. George Jr. was a mischievous and clever young man. He was smart, with a propensity for engineering and, apparently, a desire to blow things up, but with a purpose.

George attended Brooklyn Technical High School, graduating in 1947, and went on to study chemical engineering at Syracuse University, earning his degree in 1950. George continued his education to earn a master's degree in chemical engineering at New York University and was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to study rocketry at the Stuttgart Technical Institute in Germany.

In his career, George worked for Bell Aircraft to develop the fuel for the X-15 rocket engine designed to fly five times the speed of sound. Following his work in Germany, he joined Reaction Motors Inc., later Thiokol Corp., as a

propulsion engineer powering the Apollo rockets that won the race to the moon for the United States. Later, George joined Bellcomm supporting the NASA Apollo program and worked on the Surveyor Vernier engine on the lunar lander. He spent the final chapter of his career with Comsat Labs, which had been founded under President Kennedy to serve the public by developing an international commercial satellite communication system.

George and his wife, Patsy, a professional community association manager, raised a son and three daughters, primarily in Montgomery Village in Montgomery County, MD. They enjoyed dancing, winning the occasional jitterbug competition. George believed in the importance of education and the value of sports for all ages. He spoke multiple languages (not all of them well, but with commitment) and was an avid reader, a colorful dresser (often sporting the bow ties you might expect on a rocket scientist), and a famously slow eater.

George resided with his wife at Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg, MD at the time of his death. He is survived by Patsy Edsall Huson, his wife of 66 years; his brother John Huson (Maria Huson) of Charlotte, N.C.; his children Gregory Huson (Annie Huson) of Silver Spring, MD, Denise Huson (Patrick Lapensee) of Sykesville, MD, Claire Huson (Dave Goldberg) of Takoma Park, MD, and Margaret Powell (Dan Powell) of Mount Airy, MD; and grandchildren Nathaniel Huson, Martha Huson, and Sebastian Goldberg.

A memorial service will be held at the Guild Memorial Chapel at 301 Odendhal Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD on Saturday, November 26, 2022 at 2 p.m. Refreshments to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Syracuse University, Maryland Senior Olympics, Planned Parenthood or Population Connections.