

Ronald Joseph Mario

Ronald J. Mario, former president of COMSAT Mobile Communications and chairman of the INMARSAT Governing Council, dies at 80.

It is with deep and profound sadness that we announce the loss of Ronald Joseph Mario, who died July 20, 2023 at his home in Arlington, VA, surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Revere, MA, on June 5, 1943, Ron Mario grew up in Keene, NH. After graduating from Dartmouth College, he began his career at The Prudential Insurance Company of America in Boston, MA. Executive positions followed at Continental Forest Industries in Stamford, CT, where he spent more than 15 years.

Moving with his family to the MD/DC/VA area in 1985, Ron became the president of COMSAT Mobile Communications, a division of COMSAT Corporation in Washington, DC. He also served as chairman of the INMARSAT Governing Council in London, England, and was a member of the board of directors of ICO Global Communications, Ltd. He was very proud of his work to improve and save lives around the world through maritime satellite communications. After his retirement in the mid-1990s, Ron spent one year as CEO for Spotcast Communications, Inc. in Bethesda, MD, and established his beloved harness horse racing and breeding business, which he ran successfully for two decades.

Ron was a good and generous man of great integrity and humor. He loved Cape May, NJ, and Longboat Key, FL; London and Paris; pizza, coffee milkshakes and Jack Daniel's on the rocks with a twist. He adored his Boston Red Sox, the musical Les Misérables, and driving his vintage gold Mustang convertible. Most of all, he had deep, enduring friendships and an enormous love for his family.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents, Mary Josephine and Alfred. Ron is survived by his wife of 54 years, Helaine; his daughter, Jessica (Mario) Danaceau and her husband, Brad; his son, Sean and his wife, Jenny; and his five beautiful grandchildren, Ellie, Tyler, Clair, Declan and Ian.

Ron will be interred at Oak Hill Cemetery in Georgetown in a private family ceremony. Those wishing to honor him with a contribution might consider Mary House (www.maryhouse.org), which provides housing and resources to low-income immigrant and refugee families in the DC metro area.