

HENRY B. WILLIAMS

1938 - 2026

Henry was born as Bang Chang Kyu on December 9th, 1938, in Seoul, South Korea.

As a teenager, he was orphaned in 1955, and to support himself Bang was employed as paper boy for Pacific Stars + Stripes newspaper on the Yong Son Military Compound in Seoul.

Assigned to Seoul, Colonel Arthur H. & Ella "Peg" Williams met Henry in the summer of 1959 at Yong Son Military Compound and took him into their home in November 1959 and became his formal guardians. He was then able to return to finishing his high school diploma at Chong Ang High School. After graduation, he attended Han Yang University to study science and engineering.

In 1961, with permission from Bang's extended family, Arthur and Ella began the formal adoption process. Bang was granted a Korean passport and student visa to come to the US as Col. Arthur received transfer orders back to Washington, DC. Henry travelled aboard the USS. Gen. William Mann arriving in Honolulu, Hawaii on June 27th, 1961. The family settled in Alexandria, VA. In 1962, after more than 2 years of effort by Arthur & Ella, Bang was adopted and formally named Henry Bang Williams.

In 1964, Henry received his associate degree from the Capital Radio Engineering Institute of Washington, DC. That same year, Henry became a Naturalized Citizen of the United States.

In February 1968, Henry began a lengthy career in the electronics field specifically with satellite communication systems at Communications Satellite Corp/ CompStat Laboratories. In 1989, Henry and a few team members were awarded the "Laboratories Research Award" for "High Efficiency Flat-Plate Array for Direct Broadcast Applications" In 1997, Henry transferred employment to Global Satcom Tech, working on portable satellites for Humvees and other projects. In 2014, Henry retired from Global Satcom Tech at the age of 78. He left his career as a well-respected colleague and team member and kept in touch with many.

For most of his adult life, Henry lived in Montgomery Village, Maryland from 1974 to 2021. There he was a beloved neighbor to all going on his daily walks, smiling and waving to his neighbors and picking up litter and bottles and of course feeding his hummingbirds outside of his kitchen window.

Always athletic, he was a longtime member of the Washington, DC Ski Club. Henry competed in amateur slalom races and enjoyed a few trips of heli-skiing as well. Henry also was a skilled tennis player with many tournament trophies to his credit.

Throughout his life, Henry travelled the US and the world extensively with his parents, and his friends at the Washington Ski Club or on his own.

Henry was an avid lover of the arts, including classical music, painting, and ballroom dance. He was a very good baker of “Henry Bread” a healthy bread that was delicious toasted. You were lucky to receive a loaf of bread as a gift.

In November 2021 Henry moved to River Valley Retirement Community to be near his aunt Cynthia Williams, 1st cousins Carrie Gilbertie and Heather Williams along with their extended families.

Henry was beloved by all who lived and worked at River Valley. He spent 4 years going on daily walks, feeding the Koi fish and the birds as well as continuing to dance and enjoy the music and the nightly movies.

His smile, friendly waves and gentlemanly demeanor were appreciated by all.

He was a true lover of all God’s creation with a special affection for hummingbirds, squirrels, weasels and Koi fish. Henry epitomized River Valley and loved his community, and he was loved in return.

The family would like to thank Henry’s caregivers, Loretta, Marilyn, Nancy, Irma, Eva, and especially Mavis who was by his side until his passing.