



Hulon Hefley Dunlap Jr.

October 18, 1951 - June 29, 2023

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Hulon Hefley Dunlap, Jr., known variously to his many friends and family alike as Hugh or Hu, died following treatment for encephalitis at Methodist University Hospital on June 29, 2023 at age 71. He was born in Mobile, Alabama on October 18, 1951 to Hulon H. Dunlap, Sr. and the former Elizabeth Fassbender and grew up in Blytheville, Arkansas. His roots, however, were in West Tennessee. He was the great-great grandson of Crockett County, Tennessee pioneers whose names he bore, Dunlap and Hefley, and he moved closer to his forebearers when he arrived in Memphis for college.

Hugh's passion was building things, and he had an engineer's mind for knowing what things would work and what things wouldn't. His early calling was carpentry, which was the perfect preparation for his ultimate career as a custom homebuilder and renovator. He reminisced about those early days -- on the road with his tools loaded in a VW van, no working heater and missing floorboards, ponytail flying.

Carpenters are the guys on a job who are called upon to accommodate all the building trades, and Hugh, seemingly innately, understood their mysteries. He also made more than one architect look good by masking an awkward

condition with some well-milled trim. He would first make a beautiful drawing with his trembly hand on graph paper and then produce it in his shop. He could also build an elegant table, shelf, desk, bench, or bracket when a satisfactory one could not be bought. He had good taste.

Hugh's ability to work was curtailed several years ago, primarily as a result of essential tremor. His absence from the job site, however, did not equate with absence from the mind of one structural engineer, who, when recently faced with a recalcitrant framing problem, lamented: "This is one of those times when you really miss Hugh."

In February, 1983, over 40 years ago, Hugh married Lynn Yates. She survives him, as does his rescue dog, Lady, who continues to sleep on only his bed. She is not the only one who misses him.