

Marty Cioffoletti Obituary



MARTY'S 1960 BADGE

Martin “Marty” Carmine Cioffoletti, passed away peacefully on Saturday, October 17, 2020 at his home in Huntington Beach, California at the age of 86. Born in the heart of Chicago, Marty was son to an Italian immigrant father, Gelsimino Cioffoletti, and a beloved mother Marie Constantio. He was the youngest of four children, brothers Edward and Jessie, and sister Amelia, all of whom he loved dearly.

Marty had a lifelong fascination with cars, boats, planes and all things mechanical. As a youth, working in a garage he became an auto mechanic. He bought, fixed and sold his first car (a 1940 Ford convertible) at the age of fourteen. It was the

first of many cars to come. After graduating an all boys Catholic high school, he went on to Lewis University where he acquired an Airplane Mechanic license. He soon began working as a flight engineer for TWA. When drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean War, he used his skills as a helicopter mechanic. After returning home, Marty worked for Chicago Helicopter. It was there he met his future wife, a young Canadian named Patsy "Pat" Haney. He returned to Lewis University and received his Mechanical Engineering degree in 1960.

Shortly after graduating, Marty and Pat moved to Cape Canaveral, Florida where he began a remarkable career in the U.S. Space Program. He worked on every manned space program in U.S. history - Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, the Space Shuttle and Sea Launch. He cherished the opportunity to be a part of the team that launched those first astronauts into space. Moving to North American Rockwell he worked on the Apollo program and supported every launch. The program dominated his life and most everyone's around Kennedy Space Center at the time in order to put an American on the moon. In 1973, Marty transitioned from the Apollo Program in Florida to the Space Shuttle Program in California, where he moved with his wife and two sons. He participated in more than 100 Space Shuttle missions, everything from early design, initial drop tests, first flight, and testifying before Congress after the loss of Challenger. He received the NASA Public Service Medal and retired from Rockwell International in 2000. Marty was soon asked to step out of retirement and join Sea Launch a multinational maritime spacecraft launch platform where he headed operations. Forever interested in aerospace and technology, he continued to apply his vast knowledge and support to the U.S. Space Program as an advisor and consultant into his 80's.

Marty's storied career is only overshadowed by his reputation as a beloved family man, an excellent friend and invaluable mentor. His family is deeply grateful for his presence in their lives. Marty was a loving and generous father to his sons Marty and Dominic, their spouses Mary and Christopher, and a devoted grandfather to Savannah, Sean, Chelsea and Nicholas. He will be missed.