

James Bryan Mercer

1940-2021



Dr. Bryan Mercer passed away peacefully on September 30, 2021 in Calgary, Alberta. For more than 30 years, he was a strong supporter of ASPRS, never missing the Annual and the former Fall meetings. In addition, he was also represented the ASPRS community internationally at ISPRS.

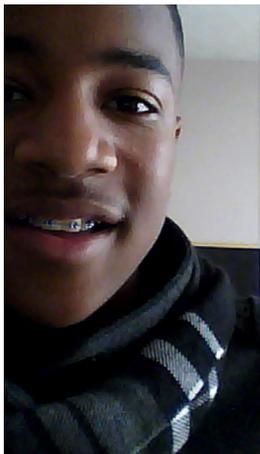
Bryan received his B.Sc. in Physics from the University of Alberta in 1962, and then a PhD in Astrophysics in 1967 at the University of Calgary. As a postdoc and young researcher, he travelled a lot and spent longer times in Italy and UK before settling back to Calgary, where he played a key role in initiating an arctic remote sensing program. In 1984, he became Chief Scientist at Intermap Technologies, a position he held until his retirement. He focused on radar technologies, in particular airborne SAR, and soon he turned out to be a world renowned expert in the commercial SAR practice, including data acquisition, processing and product development.

Notably, he had the classical geomatics trait, being extremely careful about using rigorous QA/QC processes. For 12 years, he jointly led ISPRS Working Groups on SAR and lidar technologies.

Bryan, a born optimist was not only a very bright scientist, but he was an exceptionally kind and supportive person. He had warm words for everyone around him and, being an excellent speaker, was always ready to share some nice stories. As a globetrotter scientist, he met many people all over the world and developed long-lasting friendships. Bryan was a well-rounded person, as besides being a devoted professional, he had a life outside of the office too. He loved nature, the mountains, especially the Canadian Rockies where he found lots of joy, including, camping, hiking, skiing and biking. He liked movies and books; a good book as well as a flask of Crown Royal had always accompanied him on his numerous trips all over the world. While he loved jazz in his entire life, it was fairly late when he started to play on the saxophone, something he could enjoy till the very end.

Bryan is survived by his wife Diane; his children Larissa and David and stepdaughter Robin; grandchildren Caelan, Athan, Noah, Maya and Fiona. He will be missed by his family, friends and colleagues.

~Charles Toth, Past President—ASPRS



Too young to drive the car? Perhaps!

But not too young to be curious about geospatial sciences.

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