

In Memoriam

Yogendra Singh 1943–2024

Yogendra “Yogen” Singh could be called the soul of the Potomac Region; he was a trusted technical resource, knew the history of ASPRS and the Potomac Region, and served as a mentor to young and old members. His passing, on August 28, 2024, has left a void.

Yogendra Singh was born March 26, 1943, in India. He received a B.S. in the Physical Sciences from Agra University, then joined the Army Corps of Engineers of India. Lt. Colonel Singh directed and provided technical management for a staff of 200 in all phases of aerial survey and mapping projects. He served as Chief Training and Technical Officer of the Military Survey Group, directing 50 staff and training over 1000 survey personnel in geodetic control, aerial photography, photogrammetry, cartographic surveys and mapping. He earned a M.S. in Photogrammetry from the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), in the Netherlands in 1981.

He moved to the U.S. with his family in 1986 to begin a career as the Senior Project Manager of GIS, Photogrammetry and Geodesy for Fairfax County, Virginia. He also founded a geospatial information consulting business focusing on state and local government clients.

Yogen was an early user of GPS in local government projects and provided a testbed for techniques. He partnered with Prof. Fritz Ackermann in 1992 to implement a solution for airborne GPS signal loss, enabling the implementation of direct geopositioning. He convinced Montgomery County, Maryland, to include RFP language that required commercial firms to utilize airborne GPS in their mapping workflow, which was not common practice at the time. He advised his consulting clients on the use of airborne GPS by commercial aerial triangulation firms and on 3-D GPS-leveling height modernization. He also initiated and managed the first known large-scale automated digital aerial triangulation project (1997).

Yogen joined ASPRS in 1986 and served in many leadership roles in the Potomac Region. Starting in 1995, he



served on the Potomac Region Board as Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President, President (2 terms), Past President, and as Region Historian.

One of his most important contributions to the Potomac Region was the foundation of the annual GeoTech Conference, which brings together government agencies, commercial practitioners, academic researchers, and students. He served numerous times as the Conference Chair and on the Conference Committee.

He founded the Region’s Student Forum program, through which student chapters were formed at universities within the Region and the students’

ASPRS dues and professional activities were subsidized by the Region to involve them in ASPRS. He chaired the Region’s Bylaw Committee that revised the Region’s Bylaws to comply with National Bylaws and spearheaded the Region’s efforts to contribute to the Society’s building fund. Yogen used his affiliation and influence with the Institute of Land Information (ILI) to provide the endowment for the ASPRS John Behrens ILI Memorial Scholarship.

He was also active in other professional societies. He served as the Treasurer of the Institute of Land Information, USA from 1995-2008, and was a founding and life member of the Indian National Cartographic Association. In 1980, he was a National Delegate from India to the ISPRS Congress in Hamburg, Germany. Yogen served as Conference Technical Chair of GIS/LIS 95 and 97.

Yogen presented his professional and research work at professional conferences and workshops including ACSM, ASPRS, and GIS/LIS. He was a Licensed Photogrammetric Surveyor in the State of South Carolina, and an ASPRS Certified Photogrammetrist and Mapping Scientist - GIS/LIS.

Yogen is survived by his wife of 56 years, Kusum; by his son Sumeet, daughter-in-law Stephanie, and grandson Aiden, residents of Texas; and by his daughter Smita, who lives in San Francisco.

Chris McGlone

Member and Former President, Potomac Region