



Herman "Hans" Colenbrander

December 8, 2020

Herman G. C. (Hans) Colenbrander, born September 6, 1937 in the eastern part of the Netherlands on the border of Germany, died peacefully on December 8, 2020 at the age of 83. Educated in the Netherlands, he graduated from the Technical University of Delft in June of 1966. That year he married his fiancé, Christel and a month later they immigrated to the United States. Hans worked his entire profession for the Westinghouse Atomic Power Division first in Forest Hills and later in Monroeville. He retired in 1991 after a successful career of 25 years. He was an avid runner and cyclist, which he enjoyed for many years with his son Mark and later in his retirement. His other hobby was his Porsche that he kept for over 40 years. He enjoyed driving it, "playing with it" and the friendships of the members in the Allegheny Chapter of the Porsche Club of America. He is survived by two children: Christien Colenbrander Bass (Jay) and Mark Colenbrander (Carolyn), four grandchildren: Hannah Bass, Harrison Bass, William (Will) Colenbrander, and Margaret (Maggie) Colenbrander; and sister Christl Frey Colenbrander (Peter) of Winterthur, Switzerland. Preceding him in death are his wife, Christel Colenbrander and parents, Jan & Hanna Colenbrander, in Dinxperlo, the Netherlands. The family would like to thank the staff of Arden Courts, Monroeville, for their dedication and kind care. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, memorial services will be for immediate family only. Arrangements entrusted to the GENE H. CORL FUNERAL CHAPEL INC. AND CREMATION SERVICES OF MONROEVILLE. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation

to the following charities: clearthoughtsfoundation.org or ASPCA.org. Please visit www.corlfuneralchapel.com to leave condolences to the family.

Tribute Wall

AC

“ I have known Hans since the 1980's. We both worked at Westinghouse. Our homes were 5-minutes walk away in Monroeville, and we shared common interests in German cars, mainly BMWs and Porsches. And we both like bicycles too. I was very impressed by his knowledge and skills on cars - he rebuilt the engine on his BMW 528i and then completely restored his Porsche 911 from ground up. I remember having many great conversations with him and learning a lot from him.

My family and I moved away from Monroeville in 1989 to Los Angeles but kept in touch with Christel and Hans with Christmas cards and phone calls, catching up on the latest news about family, jobs and cars. I remembered visiting the Colenbranders in 1999 when I went back to Monroeville. Then in August of 2000, we ran into Christel and Hans at Pebble Beach, California of all places. We were both attending the concours d'elegance. Imagine the pleasant surprise.

We had not talked for a few years, pandemic and all. So when I happened to be in Pittsburgh (September 10, 2021), I visited Monroeville to look up my long time friend and was sadden to learn of his passing. I have so many great memories of Hans, his warmth and sincerity. I will miss him dearly.

Aaron Chan
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA



Aaron Chan - September 11, 2021 at 02:23 PM

KS

“ Hans was one of my first colleagues and mentors when I began my engineering career at Westinghouse. I quickly became familiar with his technical expertise and his determined (dare I say stubborn) Dutch nature. I also soon learned Hans’s opinion of Detroit “iron,” preferring makes like BMW and Porsche instead. Hans was a charter member of the “Run at Lunch Bunch,” which I eventually joined. I soon learned that keeping up with Hans running the foothills of Monroeville was an imposing challenge. I did have the pleasure of once meeting Christel, who impressed me as being ideally suited as Hans’s life partner. I extend my condolences to Hans’s children and grandchildren. Hans, may you Rest In Peace.



*Ken Slaby
Forest Hills, PA*

Ken Slaby - December 15, 2020 at 02:59 PM

CC

“ Mark and Christine, I am so sorry to hear about your dad's passing. I was glad to know him and your mom when we lived on Dickson Ave. The Cieslaks have your entire family in our thoughts during this difficult time.

Chris Cieslak - December 13, 2020 at 03:47 PM

ON

“ 1 file added to the album Hans



Onno - December 10, 2020 at 02:17 PM

ON

“ 4 files added to the album Hans



Onno - December 10, 2020 at 02:04 PM

OM

“ Hans was my very first friend when I arrived in Pittsburgh in the mid 70's to start working at Westinghouse. He was the one, driven by logical curiosity, who stopped by my rental house on Haymaker Rd in Monroeville with my 2nd hand Porsche 911 just acquired parked in the driveway to find out if he could make me enthusiastic in joining the local chapter of Porsche nuts! From that moment on we shared fantastic experiences and he gave me many an opportunity to really learn so many mechanics tricks from a real ace! With Hans' lovely lady Christel we once embarked on a cross country trip to San Diego to attend the annual Porsche Parade. Driving in a caravan of Porsches and always on the look-out for "smokeys" ready to trigger the speed gun, we thoroughly enjoyed each other's company and great camaraderie. Many hours I relished spending with Hans in his garage always eager to learn from him. His hand-built collection of miniature race cars was quite something and I never stopped admiring the precision, passion and patience with which Hans built and painted his miniature cars. Had I been a bit more sportive I surely would also have enjoyed sharing his passion for cycling! Hans got me hooked though on wonderful Pittsburgh brewed beer. In Hans and also in Christel I will miss dear friends with whom I shared so many wonderful memories. In this trying time I wish Christien and family and Markus and family all the strength to bear the loss of their father and grandfather.

Spain, Estepona, Onno Meeuwis & Suzanne Linsen

onno meeuwis - December 09, 2020 at 09:16 PM

YT

“ Thank you for allowing us the honor of caring for Herman. The loss of a loved one is never easy, but know our care remains here for you and your family through your grief. We hope we can offer comfort and strength during this difficult time of loss. With heartfelt sympathy, Your Heartland Hospice Team.

Your Heartland Hospice Team - December 09, 2020 at 08:51 AM