



## Joel F. Boney

April 21, 1947 - October 12, 2010

Joel F. Boney, 63, passed away on October 12, 2010, ten years after he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. His wife and two daughters were by his side at his death in Fort Collins, Colorado. Joel was a very intelligent man with a gentle soul and quick wit. Throughout his life, Joel's calm demeanor, quiet humor and his ability to tell a good story captured the hearts of family, friends and co-workers. His genuine enthusiasm toward how things work was reflected in his ability to explain simply the water flow of toilets and car engines to computer microprocessors. In general, he had a lot of fun engineering. Joel grew up in the hills of southern Ohio along the banks of the Ohio River with his mother and father, Herbert and Berneda Boney and his two older brothers. His mother was a graduate from Marietta College, and his father a WWII veteran and grocery store owner. The hills and hollers in his backyard and his chemistry set provided all the necessary resources to inspire a young mind. During his teenage years, his family moved to Sarasota, Florida where he attended high school, enjoyed clown school for PE, and created a lifetime of fond memories as a young employee of Dairy Queen. He continued his education at the University of Southern Florida with a degree in engineering and later received his masters in computer science from the University of Texas at Austin. Joel loved running and hiking in the outdoors. His adventures took him bicycling and traveling to Peru, Canada, Mexico, and Europe as well as hiking in his own backyard of the Rocky Mountains. He liked to work hard, and play even harder. His ability to communicate and to put

life into perspective using humor allowed him to write with another coworker about a fictitious customer site visit that after getting a number of marketing memos describing what extraordinary features customers wanted in an upcoming microprocessor. The humorous take of the memo helped some his coworker engineers to view the corporate world a little less seriously. And, of course he helped coworkers and friends to take up bicycling as a lifelong hobby. As a member and manager of several hardware performance teams, Joel was a calming influence that kept a diverse group of people going in the same direction. His quiet leadership left quite a mark on those organizations and the individual team members. They have and will continue to miss him greatly. In Austin, Texas in the 1980's, Joel was a lead architect on the Motorola 6809 and 6805. He was a key contributor to the design of most of the early Motorola MPU's and MCU's, several of which are still in production after 25 years!. His keen attention to details made him an excellent hardware architect and designer. He was a master with floating point numbers and did some nifty cryptography. Aside from the many engineers he's led, Joel helped implement and document the standards for how numbers and exceptions in the use of numbers can be implemented in hardware IEEE 754-1985 and others. These ideas are part of every computer you use. Joel's work accomplishments will outlive us all. In the early 1990's he worked for Solbourne Computer in Longmont, CO then he moved on to Hal Computer Fujitsu in San Jose, California into the mid 1990's. Joel finished his career at Hewlett Packard in Fort Collins, CO. He is survived by his wife of twenty four years, Gloria Ackley with whom he shared many wonderful adventures; his daughters, Robin and Gena Boney; Steve Meehan with his former wife Rebecca Hill and his grandson, Declan Joel Meehan. Also, he is survived by his brothers, David Kathy Boney, Edwin Susan Boney and his nieces and nephews. And his friend of 48 years, Roger Myers. Alzheimer's disease stole the last ten years of Joel's life, but his faithful companions ? his golden girls, Maggie Mae and Dakota helped make each day more bearable with their unending love and devotion, and ensuring his safe arrival home after each run

or hike around the neighborhood. His family wants to acknowledge and thank all of the staff of Brookdale Senior Living Claire Bridge Alzheimer's Care and Pathways Hospice for their excellent care and for their warm and caring hearts. Joel's ashes will be taken back to Marietta, Ohio for a family service. A future memorial celebration will be held at his home. Memorial contributions can be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Larimer Humane Society, or the Food Bank for Larimer County in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524.

# Tribute Wall

GM

“ *Great MC6809 development. I known this in 1984 and assembly programming with this great CPU. Thanks Joel.*

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**Gunter Menzel** - November 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ *As a student way back in 1986 I used Motorola's 6809 processor. It was THE advanced microprocessor, way ahead of competitors. Very powerfull with least no. of instruction set. Thanks to Joel and Ritter. Today while googleing i went into the past, googled 6809, its design team and finally stumbled upon this news. It's the circle of life, and it moves us all, through despair and hope, through faith and love, 'till we find our place, on the path unwinding. Please accept my heartfelt condolences on the loss of your loved one.*

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**CP KULKARNI** - August 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JS

*Similarly, I too was reminiscing about the 6809, a beautiful masterpiece of design. Later worked with Z-80 and it was a pig in comparison. In 1977-78 I had an offer to interview at Motorola but I turned it down for a local job. That may be my only regret in life, if it meant I might have gotten to work with Joel and Ritter in some way on the 6809 that came out of Motorola shortly after. I'm 64 now and still coding in C and .Net.*

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**Joe Shields** - October 16, 2015 at 11:00 AM

WB

“ I am stunned to find this out. As a fresh-out in 1983 at Motorola, I met Joel one day. He was writing an assembler for the micro-code of the 68000. That is what he told me, and he said "this is unlike any assembler you have ever seen." I asked him what language he was using I was an assembler/PLM guy. He said, "C the language of choice". I asked him who's choice? and he said mine. I have fondly remembered that for years, as I have chosen C for my language as well. RIP master of the 6809. 8-14-2014

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**Woodrow Baker** - August 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ Gloria, I was so sorry to see Joel's obituary in the paper. We had connected again and hoped to have more conversation with him. Joel was always a gentle and insightful participant in our groups. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Sincerely, Emmalie Conner  
Regional Director Alzheimer's Association

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**Emmalie Conner** - November 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ GLORIA, YOU AND JOEL GAVE ALL YOU HAD TO GIVE AND WERE TRULY DEVOTED TO EACH OTHER. REMEMBER THE GOOD TIMES. LOVE ALWAYS, RON & NANCY ACKLEY

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**RON & NANCY ACKLEY** - November 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ My friend Gloria, Such fond memories I have of time spent with you and dear Joel. He did appreciate a good story and himself was a character in quite a few. Wishing you comfort and peace.

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**Pam Hurt** - November 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Gloria - Even though we all knew Joel was ill, it's still a shock. I only met with him a few times, but he was always kind to me. Please know that if you ever need anything, you have family in Ohio that will always be there for you. Take care! Love you! - Todd, Janey, and Corbin Boney

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**Janey Boney** - November 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

WW

“ Joel was my best friend during our time at the HAL startup in California during the nineties. His quiet and friendly manners, compared with encyclopedic knowledge of computer architecture made it a pure joy to work with him for years. The enormously successful 64-bit Sparc architecture Sparc V9 will always be his legacy. Remember the advertisements and billboards by SUN during the dot-com area - "we are the dot in dot-com"? The dot really was based on the architecture in which Joel has such a leading hand in creating. I will miss him... Winfried W. Wilcke

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**Winfried Wilcke** - November 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ Joel graced our lives with his many years ago. We will remember!!!!

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**Charlotte and Brad Ballard** - November 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ To Gloria-I was stunned & saddened to see Joel's name in yesterday's paper. I've thought of you so many times, while sitting on my kitchen chairs, the same table & chairs you gave me when you first moved in with Joel. I still wear jewelry you gave me & still belong to Sierra Club. I've wished we hadn't lost track & never imagined you were going through anything like what the past ten years must've been. Remembering how active and energetic Joel was, I imagine you packed a lot of living into the early years & I hope THOSE memories sustain you now. I hope you can reach me through this email address. Please let me hear from you when you are up to it. You're in my heart.

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**Catherine Weir** - November 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ So sorry to hear of Joel's passing. Our prayers are with you.

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**Mariann & John Heinrich** - November 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ We will miss his kind and gentle soul.

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**Betty Long Rolfs** - November 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ Joel's quiet demeanor and incredible knowledge were among his endearing qualities. He and Gloria made many a bike ride and hike a more memorable experience. I'll miss him.

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**Lyle Clugg** - November 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RV

“ I am sorry to hear about Joel's passing. I met Joel when I joined Motorola in 1978. I remember him as a friendly and helpful colleague. We used to kid him about his "computer" when a misspelling appeared in one of his technical articles. I am sure he will be missed a lot by all. Ray

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**Ray Voith** - November 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ I am going to miss that guy. He was so sweet and really loved his doggy girls. He had some great stories too, the high school optional classes in Sarasota always amazed me. Peace.

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**Karen Erickson** - November 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ I, too, am sorry to hear of Joel's passing and the challenges of the last 10 years of his life. Thank you for posting the obituary in the Austin paper today, which sent me searching for old photographs of Joel from Austin Sierra Club outings circa the 1980s. My sympathies and best wishes to Gloria and the rest of Joel's family.

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**Anne Province** - November 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ Gloria and Family~ I am very sad to hear of Joels death. Gloria, you did such an amazing job caring for Joel and always looking of for what was best for him. We will miss seeing him in the office. I didn't know him in his younger years but he sounded like an amazing man. He was always a joy to see. Bless you and your family! Lori Pedersen Advanced Neurology of Co, LLC

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**Lori Pedersen** - November 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JM

“Gloria, We are sorry to hear about Joel. Our thoughts are with you.  
Warmly, Jan and James McGuirk

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**Jan and James McGuirk** - November 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM