



Dr. Michael McKee Garland, former Chair and Professor of the Physics Department at the University of Memphis (1965 - 1999), and a respected professor in this field for approximately 34 years passed away on Jan 1, 2023.

“Mick” as he was known by his family, friends and colleagues was 83 years of age. He had an illustrious career with UM. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts and Science from Austin Peay State University and a PhD in Physics from Clemson University under a Harvard Rhodes Scholarship.

His students, colleagues, neighbors, friends, and family regarded his education, talent, sense of responsibility, dedication to his calling, wit, and charm beyond measure. His exploration into physics had no bounds. He enjoyed teaching graduate classes, the Physics of Music class to Music Majors and doing research, hence he received the Distinguished Teacher award in 1978. He also did research at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center. He was a seeker in this world.

After his retirement in 1999, he remained in the Memphis area for a couple of years before moving to Bradenton, FL. He so loved the climate of Florida, and said it was paradise. He remained a student of life and learning during his lifetime.

Mick was born to Charles Richard Jr. and Frances Garland. Their home was a neighborhood centerpiece in the burgeoning community of Clarksville, Tennessee. Mick was the younger of twin boys born in 1939. His Father passed away when the boys were 9. Frances, with the support of her family and her job at Austin Peay State University raised her two sons.

Mick’s early homelife encompassed several cats, a dog named Polly and two sons. He was an avid horticulturalist and master gardener. He and his sons built a cabin on land he bought in middle TN. He also built an authentic harpsichord by hand. Often his weekends found him playing banjo with a neighborhood group of skilled musicians that delighted both the band and their respective audiences with Bluegrass tunes. Nearly all sessions included him singing a fan favorite, “Good Ol’ Mountain Dew.”

He and Rebecca (Becky) Aslinger married in 1977. Much of his later years were filled with adventures of sailing their boat, traveling, gardening, and enjoying their pool. He never needed a reason to be outdoors, nature was his favorite preoccupation.

He leaves behind his wife, Becky, of 44 years, two sons Michael McKee Jr. (m. Cynthia), 64, Paul Geoffrey (m. Sheryl), 62, his twin brother, Charles Richard Garland III (m. Gertrude), his Father-in-Law Wayne Aslinger, Brother-in-Law Jerry (m. Mary Ann) and Sister-in-Law Allison (m. Jim). His six grandchildren are Michael McKee Garland III (Trey), Marissa Jeffrey, Megan Roggendorff, Caitlin Garland, Jeremy Garland, and Ellen MaHaffey. His nine great-grandchildren are Logan,

Rowan, Alexis, Avie, Loki, Connor, Makenna, Noah, and Violet and his one great-great granddaughter is Layla. He also leaves behind several nieces and nephews, and a special nephew and godson Alex Hans.

He was a soft-spoken, disciplined man, a good provider, a caring Dad, a loving husband, and an impressive teacher. Mick was a man of many qualities who was known for his wry sense of humor. He touched the lives of countless people. This world won't be as poignant without him.

It was a joy to have you be a big part of our lives. You will be missed. We hope to see you again one day.

Gratefully, the family of Michael McKee Garland

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