



## Glen Spencer "Spence" Hatfield Sr.

May 31, 1950 - July 3, 2023

Glen Spencer Hatfield Sr., age 73 of Winchester, TN, died on July 3rd, 2023 after having a heart attack. He was born in Chattanooga, TN on May 31, 1950, graduated from Lakeview High School in 1968. His career spanned from the depths of the ocean to the moon and beyond. He was in the U.S. Navy as a sonar technician serving 6 tours aboard the Henry L. Stimson nuclear Submarine. He was married to high school sweetheart, Kay Lord Hatfield. During his long career he was a master barber, worked in Sequoyah Nuclear Power Plant, Then Arnold Air Force Base where he worked in a highly specialized analytical position. He also owned a vibration analytical firm for several years. For the last 17 years, until his death, he worked for Bastion Technologies under contract with NASA at the Marshall Space Flight Center (Huntsville, AL) as Principal Reliability and Maintainability Engineer. Spence was invaluable to the space and reliability community. He supported NASA ARES, SLS Artemis programs, Mars Ascent Vehicle and so many more projects for the Spacecraft and payload Integration Element office. His reliability analysis led to requirement changes and improved space hardware and software design. As a result of the significant impact he made to the space program, Spence received a Silver Snoopy award, one of NASA's highest achievements. He was well known within the Bastion and NASA community and will be missed by all.

In his spare time, he coached his grandson Tyler's Pop Warner football team and managed his go-cart racing team along with his son Sonny. Spence was

a member of the Cowan Baptist Church and a saved Christian.

Spence was preceded in death by his grandparents, Glen (Mae) Kirkpatrick and Henry (Ellen) Hatfield; father, Bobby Hatfield Sr.; and sister, Linda Dalton.

Survivors include his wife of 55years, Georgia Kay Lord Hatfield; son, Glen Spencer (Sonny) Hatfield, Jr.; grandson, Spencer Tyler Hatfield; mother Eleanor Hatfield Newberry; brothers, Michael (Martha) Hatfield, Bobby (Beverly) Hatfield Jr.; two nieces; several great nieces and nephews; extended family and many friends.

Visitation will be 5pm until 8pm Friday July 7, 2023 and 11am until 1pm Saturday July 8, 2023 at Wilson Funeral Home Fort Oglethorpe Chapel.

Funeral Service with full military honors will be 1pm Saturday, July 8, 2023 in the in funeral home chapel. Rev. Steve Rowland officiating. Inurnment will be at Chattanooga National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asked that donations be made in Spence's name to Animal Harbor, [www.animalharbor.org](http://www.animalharbor.org).

Arrangements entrusted to Wilson Funeral Home Fort Oglethorpe Chapel, 555 W. Cloud Springs Road, Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742 706-866-5555.

Online condolences at [www.wilsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Chattanooga National Cemetery

Holtzclaw Ave.  
Chattanooga, TN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 7. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

W. L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Home-Ft. Oglethorpe Chapel  
555 West Cloud Springs Road  
Ft. Oglethorpe, GA 30742  
(706) 866-5555  
info@wilsonfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com/>

## Visitation

JUL 8. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

W. L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Home-Ft. Oglethorpe Chapel  
555 West Cloud Springs Road  
Ft. Oglethorpe, GA 30742  
(706) 866-5555  
info@wilsonfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Service

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JUL 8. 1:00 PM (ET)

W. L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Home-Ft. Oglethorpe Chapel  
555 West Cloud Springs Road  
Ft. Oglethorpe, GA 30742  
(706) 866-5555  
info@wilsonfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

JT

“ I did not know Spence well. We never met in person. Our interaction was limited to work topics on the phone the year prior to his death. What impressed me first about Spence was his knowledge, then I saw the wisdom he applied to make technical data and analysis relevant (vs by the book). I also saw his , his easy going way of sharing information when he was really teaching, and lastly, his integrity shone through everything. .While I didn't know him well, I miss getting to know him better. Godspeed, Spence.

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**John Turner** - January 09, 2025 at 01:16 PM

MH

“ Spence and I graduated 1968, joined the NAVY, got separated after boot-camp in San-Deago Calf. We joined the NAVY on the buddy agreement (system) I haven't seen him since, I guess I'll get to meet him again in the after life!!! I just hate that I had to find out in this manner God Bless You my good friend!!! Love You and Kay



*Michael Hickey*

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**Michael Hickey** - February 06, 2024 at 11:52 PM

JS

“ Spence and I burned the midnight oil back in the Constellation Ares Upper Stage days and continued working together during SLS, and he always made things fun and brought in that friendly, playful spirit. I'll always remember our trip to Germany together to the Space Ops Conference and our adventures with Buffel-Man! His stories about his submariner days would make me roll on the floor laughing. His expertise as a sonar tech transferred directly over to understanding the specific frequencies/signals indicative of a failure, leading to many improvements on fault detection for the International Space Station. He was a great friend, mentor, colleague, and he will be sorely missed. Spence made such a wonderful impact on all of our lives at NASA and it will continue to live on. See you on the other side, my friend.

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**Jim Stott** - July 11, 2023 at 10:42 PM

JB

“ Well I think everyone here has expressed a lot of the same feelings and thoughts that I have about working with Spence at MSFC. We shared a lot of stories together to cope with work and personal struggles. He was always quick to share another story to end on a good note and make everyone laugh or at least get their mind off of the troubling issue, even if it was just by shocking you with a crude joke. I will miss giving him a hard time knowing he was more than willing to get down and dirty on the insults with his comeback. He had a good heart and cared about things deeply (family, work and countless other random things). He definitely was a jack of all things. I will miss your warmth, humor and your BS antics. I am glad I had a chance to get to know you and I will miss getting to know you even more.

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**Jesse Bales** - July 10, 2023 at 03:33 PM

RM

“ It’s tough returning to work today knowing that Spence is no longer around to help us resolve all of the reliability engineering related issues that we have to figure out. Spence was involved in so many important projects, he is already tremendously missed by many of us. I’m grateful for the years we worked together at the Marshall Space Flight Center (we both started in 2006), and I’m thankful to call Spence one of my best friends at work. Before COVID, we saw each other daily and during the telework period we called one another a couple of times weekly. Spence was so thorough in his assignments; he could always be counted on to do a quality job. He brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to any meeting or conversation, and he was the type of guy that would speak up and share his opinion and concerns. That type of person is so valuable in our business. Spence, I love you brother, I miss you, and I look forward to seeing you when it’s my time to join you on that distant shore. Kay and family, you’re in my thoughts and prayers. May the Lord bless you and comfort you always. Rick



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**Rick McMahan** - July 10, 2023 at 11:45 AM

TW

“ Even though we both worked at MSFC for quite some time, our career paths didn’t cross until we were both on the Mars Ascent Vehicle (MAV) project. Our first interactions were virtual during the COVID-19 shutdown of MSFC. Nevertheless, as the MAV requirements manager, I found Spence’s knowledge and advice to be invaluable. I am very sorry for your loss.

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**Tom Wickline** - July 10, 2023 at 09:46 AM

RC

“ G. Spencer Hatfield, Reliability SME, was a fantastic reliability teacher! We worked in Safety and Mission Assurance on Artemis I and he was an immense help to the Operations team. He held a great understanding of limited life items and our partnership with Engineering, in my opinion, led to the successful flight of Artemis I. Spence mentored me in Reliability Engineering when I was a Reliability cohort in the Safety Technical Excellence Program. Thank you for the lessons, Spence. Thank you for your legacy. To Spence's family, he was definitely one of a kind and will be missed! The work that he did, and the people he touched, will never forget Spence.

Ruth Conrad - July 10, 2023 at 08:28 AM

SH

“ As a member of the US Navy RIP Shipmate we have the watch, I knew Spencer growing up thru my brother and I went to school with Mike I want to say God bless his family and friends



Steve Holder - July 08, 2023 at 09:20 AM

MH

Thank you Steve.

Mike Hatfield - July 09, 2023 at 03:40 PM

NN

“ *Kay and Glen's Family,*

*On behalf of the USS Henry L Stimson SSBN655 Association, I offer you our sincere condolences on Glen's passing. We grieve with you on the loss of your loved one and our shipmate. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.*

*There is no expiration date on the back of our dolphins and Glen will always be remembered as a “Brother of the Phin”, a Stimson shipmate and a great Patriot.*

*Glen reported aboard Stimson Gold a month after I did in 1970 and we qualified for our Dolphins within weeks of each other. Glen was an outstanding shipmate and I know he will be missed by all of you and those he worked with.*

*Glen's name has been placed on the Eternal Patrol page of the Stimson Website: <http://ssbn655.org/eternal-patrol/eternal-patrol.html>*

*STS2(SS) Glen Spencer Hatfield Sr.  
US Navy Submarine Veteran  
Now on Eternal Patrol  
Sailor Rest Your Oar  
Your Shipmates Have The Watch*

*Fair Winds and Following Seas Shipmate*

*Nick Nichols, MTCM(SS) USN Ret  
Secretary/Webmaster SSBN 655 Association*

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**Nick Nichols** - July 07, 2023 at 10:39 PM



“ Dear Kay, family and friends of Spence,  
On behalf of the United States Submarine Veterans, we offer our sincere condolences at Spence’s passing. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. We are always saddened whenever a fellow "Bubblehead" departs on Eternal Patrol. He served with honor on the USS Henry L. Stimson (SSBN-655). To our "Brother-of-the-Phin" we say, "Sailor, rest your oar. We have the watch. Fair Winds and Following Seas." Thank you for your service to our country.  
Kay and family... "may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you." 2 Thessalonians 3:16 (ESV).  
Jim Sandman, FTC(SS) Ret,  
National Chaplain, USSVI.  
[www.jimsandman.com](http://www.jimsandman.com)

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**Jim Sandman** - July 07, 2023 at 08:29 PM



“ Spence, a dear friend and fellow colleague who is highly respected by all. You always brought civility, sanity, and humor to your fellow coworkers, and for that you’re going to be profoundly missed. You are well-regarded and will be forever remembered for your professional knowledge, unlimited experiences, and sincere friendship. For all of us know where Spence is, because if he is not, none of us stand a chance. God Bless...

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**Paul** - July 07, 2023 at 01:07 PM



*Thank you for your kind words.*

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**Mike Hatfield** - July 09, 2023 at 03:43 PM

KH

*Thank you, Paul, for your sweet words. Yes, we know where he is.*

**Kay Hatfield** - July 27, 2023 at 06:42 PM

RD

“*To the Hatfield family, please accept my sincerest and deepest condolences. Although during a relatively short time span, Spence had an immensely positive impact on my career and life. Even after we stopped direct collaboration, he kept in touch with me over the years since and continued to be concerned about my well-being. I greatly enjoyed his friendship, and looked forward to the opportunities to catch up with him and exchange status about latest-and-greatest happenings in our lives. I will so very much miss him and this relationship, and I regret not getting another conversation or visit with him when the opportunity still existed to do so and future plans for such had been made. I pray for your comfort and care during this difficult time; may God be with you in your grief, but also in celebrating such a profound and versatile man. I am honored and privileged to have known Spence.*”

**Ryan Deal** - July 07, 2023 at 12:24 PM

MH

*We appreciate your kind and touching comments.*

**Mike Hatfield** - July 09, 2023 at 03:44 PM

KH

*Thank you, Ryan, It was so nice talking to you. Spencer always spoke highly of you and your work ethic. thanks for your encouragement and kind words. Kay Hatfield*

**Kay Hatfield** - July 27, 2023 at 06:29 PM

BT

“ Spence will be sorely missed! I have known, liked, and respected him since 2012 at NASA. Since my husband is also a former "bubblehead" (nuclear submarine veteran) we had a LOT to talk and joke about. There will be a big hole in our team without his expertise, spirit, and sense of humor. Of late, we have been "heart buddies" as he struggled and fought. Ad astra, Spence, we'll trade jokes on the other side some day.

Barb Tonn - July 07, 2023 at 09:50 AM

DN

“ Spence was an invaluable member of our Space Launch System SPIE Element SMA Team and a very good friend. Spence brought a lot to the table and I am going to miss him tremendously.

David Neal - July 07, 2023 at 09:47 AM

BB

“ Spence you will be greatly missed. I will miss our many interesting lunch conversations at the NASA cafeteria and our work together on the SLS project. You have now traveled further than the Artemis rocket could ever dream. Ad Astra my friend - Bill Brown

Bill Brown - July 06, 2023 at 07:57 PM

GB

“ Greg Allison, Don Robinson, Bill Brown purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Glen Spencer "Spence" Hatfield Sr..



Greg Allison, Don Robinson, Bill Brown - July 06, 2023 at 07:50 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Glen Spencer "Spence" Hatfield Sr..

July 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ Spence will most definitely be missed, as a fellow sailor, a reliability engineering colleague and, mostly, as a friend. I wish I could be there for the services instead of off in the boonies of Colorado while we wait for my wife's shattered ankle to be repaired. I send my condolences to the family while holding all in prayer. Rest well Sailor.

Joel M Anderson - July 06, 2023 at 02:15 PM



Thank you, Joel. Please keep us in your prayers. I always enjoyed hearing the stories of your and Spence's conversations on many topics.

Kay Hatfield - July 27, 2023 at 06:37 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Glen Spencer "Spence" Hatfield Sr..



July 06, 2023 at 11:01 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Glen Spencer "Spence" Hatfield Sr..*



July 06, 2023 at 10:37 AM



“ *My deepest condolences and prayers to the Hatfield family.*



**Regina R. Nicholson** - July 06, 2023 at 10:20 AM



“ *Spence will be missed, a man with his experience will not come along. He is my friend and fellow sailor. Our spirited debates of submarines and surface ships and the civil war will be missed. He was my go to guy at MSFC and usually had the right answer or where to look. I look forward to seeing you again so we can continue the debates.*

**Jack Sadler** - July 05, 2023 at 09:40 PM



“ *Jack Sadler lit a candle in memory of Glen Spencer "Spence" Hatfield Sr.*



**Jack Sadler** - July 05, 2023 at 09:25 PM

BL

“ *Spence was a great guy. He took me under his wing when I started my career at Bastion. He gave me invaluable career advice over the years and was so glad to see the people around him succeed. I loved hearing the stories of his family as well as the ole submarine stories from his time at sea. He really was a jack of all trades and master of several. I learned a tremendous amount about rockets, vibrations in machinery, reliability, and nuclear subs from Spence over the years. He certainly had one of those personalities I will never forget.*

*Rest in Peace Spence, and I'll look forward to more stories when I see you again!*

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**Ben Langford** - July 05, 2023 at 09:11 PM