

We lost a good one when Dennis Haugh, 72, of Colorado Springs, CO left us on October 24, 2023.

Dennis was an Ohio farm boy who was privileged to have smart, hard-working parents. At age 10, life got more luxurious when his father added a bathroom to the drafty old house; no more trips to the outhouse where heat-lamp-seeking spiders lurked. Dennis milked cows, baled hay, worked with and hung out with his brothers, learned how to fix things from his mechanically inclined dad, threw shot put, and formed a Monkees-inspired band. At age 11 he became fascinated by classical Greek history and taught himself to read the ancient language; in high school, he won a statewide award for his fluent Spanish skills. He graduated from the very small and top-notch Attica (Ohio) High School.

His Spartan mother cleverly foiled his college plans by filling out an Air Force Academy application; it turned out to be a great move. After serving hard time there while earning his abstract math/computer science degree (and making lifelong friends and memories), he spent his active-duty career at SAC/Offut Air Force Base. He earned his master's in computer science from The University of Colorado at Boulder.

Dennis' long engineering career included working on cool NASA projects- MRO and Juno are still sending data back to Earth-and converting TV from analog to digital. He held US and international patents and was always called in to do the hard stuff; a proud career moment was saving hundreds of jobs by pulling off a last-minute fix after many others had failed. He was a jack-of-all-trades and master of many. His math/music/language gene also surfaced when playing in several stellar local rock bands (and a few marginal ones), and photos of him in 80's band garb - including, yes, parachute pants - survive. He and his Checkered Past bandmates recorded two CDs where he contributed crack lead guitar licks, songwriting, arrangements, backing vocals, and sound engineering.

In his later years, he turned his attention to research, writing, and channeling his inner Aristotle. He was a true patriot. As a strong proponent of the Constitution and the US founding principles, he used his sharp analytical talent in a collection of articles, podcasts, and three published books: Stability, Justice, and Clarity; The Road to Americanism; and Pocket Guide to Communism.

Dennis enjoyed playing Gretsch guitars, watching football, lively discussions, jaunts in his convertibles, Pontiac GTOs, vintage tractors, July 4th celebrations, and the love of all dogs. He wasn't so enthused about Brussels sprouts, chick flicks, lawn-mowing, long pants, winter, and his wife's affinity for chicken at dinner. The sometimes-crusty demeanor belied a kind and helpful nature. His legacy includes selflessly bringing many people together, whether socially or with the goal of helping our society and republic.

He is sorely missed and will be missed even more as time goes on. He was preceded in death by his parents Thomas and Cecelia. He is survived by his wife and greatest fan, Ginny; brother Jim and sister-in-law Eleanor; and brother Tom.