

Obituary Barry Tronstad  
Oxnard, CA  
April 28, 1947-April 14, 2023

The world lost a true humanitarian who liked nothing better than anonymously giving or helping others. Funding thousands of non-interest loans to women around the world, picking up trash, taking care of endangered birds, helping neighbors, doing a community garden, or supporting in the protection of animals and national parks were just a few of the things that gave his life meaning and allowed him to give back.

As a highly decorated scout helicopter pilot in the 17<sup>th</sup> Air Cav in Vietnam in 1968, he never forgot the price of freedom and consciously lived each day in the service of others. He earned 3 Air Medals of valor—finding and attacking a rocket site south of Saigon, dropping ammunition and picking up wounded in a hot landing zone during mini Tet, and for saving lives during a fire fight and pulling infantry out of mud to safety. To earn a Silver Star, he rescued soldiers in the Mekong who were pinned down by machine guns. His Purple Heart was awarded after taking 19 hits near the Cambodian border.



Barry earned his BA from Cal Poly Pomona and a Master's degree from USC. His career was devoted to building programs for the handicapped by being involved with the development of state testing and administering programs at Pacific, Lanterman and Camarillo State Hospitals and Developmental Centers. He came to Ventura from Pomona Unified and became the Director of Ventura Adult and Continuing Education where he was instrumental in creating the Technology Development Center which became known throughout the state. He was a visionary who was way before his time creating online learning, competency-based classes and specialty computer programs with multi-media and computer-aided drafting.

Always in a creative, “green” mode, he built salt-water tanks that fed directly from the ocean and protected marine life. From seeds he grew plants in his own hydro and aquaponic systems. If he wasn't building something, he would be doing a jigsaw puzzle, playing bridge or another card game, hiking, reading or photographing people, places or animals. His greatest joy was doing these things with his family.

Barry lived and loved passionately. To the world he was but one, but to me he was the world. Life with him was one adventure after another. He was driven to see every state, over 100 countries on all seven continents. Trains, planes, RVs, cruising or driving all allowed for unique experiences. He never compared them... only took joy in each one.

He will be remembered by the love of his life, his wife and best friend Denise. Together they laughed, dreamed, talked, and supported each other through all of life's good and bad times. He will also be missed by his step children Travis McMillan and Kim M. McMillan-Ralph, son-in-law Seth and grandchildren Ben McMillan and Alice Ralph whom he loved dearly and was immensely proud. He also was blessed to have an exceptional extended family and good friends who will feel the loss of such a fine man.