

## **Francis “Rip” William Perkins, Jr.**

On the morning of July 26<sup>th</sup>, Rip passed away peacefully at the Frasier Meadows assisted living facility in Boulder, CO, due to Parkinson’s disease. Rip was 80 years old.

Rip Perkins was born June 27, 1934, in Cambridge, MA, and grew up in West Hartford, CT. After graduating The Loomis School, Rip attended Harvard University, concentrating in Physics. Rip’s lifelong passion for plasma physics started at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. After two years there, he attended graduate school at Cornell University. Rip, a theorist by training, next worked briefly at Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico to test ideas of his Ph.D. thesis. He then moved to the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory



(PPPL) to pursue the harnessing of nuclear fusion for renewable energy production. He would be employed by Princeton University for the rest of his professional career, serving as head of PPPL’s theory department for many years. Rip’s final professional move was to La Jolla, California, to serve as Head of the Physics Integration Unit for the design phase of ITER, the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor. Starting in the early 1970s, Rip was also a member of JASON, a scientific advisory board to the U.S. government focused on national security issues.

Rip complemented his love of physics with a love of family, skiing, hiking, running and gardening. He and his wife Harolyn retired to Boulder, CO, to be with their three children and their families. Rip is survived by his wife, his sister, his three children, and six grandchildren.

A memorial will be held on Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm in the chapel at the Academy in Boulder to celebrate his life. In-lieu of flowers, the family suggests that contributions be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research ([www.michaeljfox.org](http://www.michaeljfox.org)).