



Howard Gersch

August 18, 1946 - June 20, 2018

On June 20th 2018, Howard Gersch passed away at home at the age of 71 after a more than 20 year battle with a rare degenerative neurological illness. He is survived by his wife of 49 years Helene Gersch, his daughter Allison Gersch, and his son Michael Gersch who is married to Sarah Gersch and their four grandchildren Zoe, Landon, Leilu, and Noah. He is also survived by his sister-in law Barbara.

Howard was born on August 18th, 1946 in Baltimore, Maryland to his parents Albert and Sarah Gersch. He grew up in Baltimore and graduated from Woodlawn Senior High School in 1964. Then he went to University of Maryland School of Engineering where he graduated first in his class in Chemical Engineering in 1968. He married the love of his life Helene on June 25th 1969. After getting his first job with Conoco, they moved to Oklahoma then to Wilmington, Delaware then Philadelphia, Pennsylvania before settling down in Clear Lake City a suburb of Houston, Texas. He worked as chemical engineer for ARCO Chemical which later became Lyondell for more than 30 years. He greatly enjoyed his work designing and working on chemical plants. He travelled the world working for that company with assignments in Japan, Korea, Boston, Holland and London. He retired from Lyondell on disability in 2000 when his neurological symptoms prevented him from being able to work.

Howard loved tennis, sailing, running, traveling, working as an engineer and cooking for his friends and family. After his illness took these things from him around the year 2000, he kept his mind occupied by playing bridge and constructing magnificent creations out of Legos. He loved his friends and family and was deeply devoted to his pets especially his King Charles Cavalier Spaniel Abbie.

Throughout his 20 year battle with a rare degenerative neurological condition, his friends and family were consistently amazed by the way he maintained a positive mental attitude and a wonderful sense of humor in the face of such adversity.

Howard Gersch believed in and enjoyed giving to the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and to Houston Public Television. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the SPCA or Houston Public Television.

Tribute Wall

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“ Howard was a very intelligent man and great chemical engineer. I noticed his high quality and asked him to join my group at Arco Chemical Company. I enjoyed meeting Howard and Helene over the years and having dinner together in the Houston area. We also enjoyed the same when he led a team in Holland for a major design project.

A great story of him is after he retired and struggling with his condition is when he walked into a BMW dealer and told the salesman he wanted to lease a convertible sports car. He loved driving that car.

It's been a long time since his passing but I think of him often.

Len Fabiano

leonard fabiano - November 12, 2025 at 03:13 PM

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“ Sorry this took so long to write, I will always remember my old friend Howard and I'll miss him. To Helene and family I'm sorry for your loss, I met Howard when he was 14 it all started because he had the pool table and I had A car..I also had the honor of introducing Helene to Howard.

Rick Spiegel - October 30, 2021 at 03:08 PM