



## Mr. Walter Thompson Mitchell

March 4, 1935 - May 11, 2021

Walter Thompson Mitchell was born March 4, 1935 in Memphis, TN.

As the first son of Tom and Marguerite Mitchell, he grew up in Millington, TN.

He attended UT Martin and graduated from Auburn University in 1959 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He married his high school sweetheart, Carol Ann Wood of Millington on March 26, 1959.

He started his engineering career with Boeing in Seattle, Washington but then moved to Huntsville, AL to be a part of the space race and to be closer to family. He worked for NASA Marshall Space Flight Center for 30 years, where he worked on Explorer I the first US satellite, the Apollo programs' instrument unit, Sky-Lab's Apollo telescope mount launch, Apollo-Soyuz mission, and was the Space Shuttle Main Engine controller hardware and software lead. His expert technical leadership resulted in flawless main engine performance for 135 missions. He received the NASA Medal for Exceptional Engineering Achievement. He further served as a NASA technical manager on a variety of projects to include design of the International Space Station avionics and software systems.

As a member of the Arab Church of Christ, he previously served as an elder and continued to teach adult bible classes. His lifelong hobbies include woodworking, gardening and travel. As a retiree, he enjoyed many US tours in their RV.

Walter is survived by his wife of 62 years, Carol Ann, his brother Tom Mitchell (Susan) of Memphis, his son Dan Mitchell (Teri) of Huntsville, his son Ben

Mitchell (Paula) of Alexander City, AL, grandson Steven Mitchell (Lauren) of Huntsville, granddaughter Laura Cook (Josh) of Irondale, AL, grandson Nathan Mitchell (Hampton) Auburn, AL and great-granddaughter Harper Mitchell of Huntsville. He was preceded in death by a son, Jonathan Mitchell. A visitation will take place at the Arab Church of Christ on Saturday - May 15, 2021 from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. with funeral service will follow at 1:00 p.m. with Bro. Ken Tyler, Dan Mitchell, Ben Mitchell and Tom Mitchell, officiating. In leu of flowers, that family requests donations be made to the Arab Church of Christ earmarked for the Robert Martin Pacific Island Mission Fund. Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel, Directing.

# Cemetery Details

## Arab Memorial Cemetery

565 South Main Street  
Arab, AL 35016

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 15. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Arab Church of Christ  
1005 North Main Street  
Arab, AL 35016

## Service

MAY 15. 1:00 PM (CT)

Arab Church of Christ  
1005 North Main Street  
Arab, AL 35016

# Tribute Wall

RM

“ I had the privilege of working for and with Walt during the Apollo Telescope Mount and Space Shuttle programs. We had many interesting and challenging times at Marshall Space Flight Center, Johnson Space Center, and Kennedy Space Center. Walt was an excellent supervisor, mentor, co-worker and friend. As I moved into management I tried to think of how Walt would handle situations and pattern my responses as he would have done. My wife, Sarah, and I also enjoyed the many social events with Walt and Carol Ann. He made my career at NASA an enjoyable place to work and I have nothing but good memories of him. - Russ Mattox

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**Russell Mattox** - May 16, 2021 at 12:37 PM

JC

“ Many great RV adventures.  
Jim Coble

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**Jim Coble** - May 13, 2021 at 04:27 PM