



Roger Gordon Gagos was born on February 10th, 1943 in Sacramento, CA, and passed away peacefully on the morning of Tuesday, August 22nd at the age of 74 in Escondido, CA.

Roger is survived by his wife Gretchen Gagos, daughter Theresa Gagos, son-in-law Brent Bystedt, son Michael Gagos, and daughter-in-law Vanessa Gagos.

Roger had a lifelong passion for music, electronics, and radio communication. He was a loving husband, father, and pet guardian, most recently to dog Button. Roger touched the many lives of his friends through countless hobbies and activities, including his volunteer work with various organizations.

As a child, Roger grew up in West Los Angeles, Hollywood and the San Fernando Valley. At the young age of 14, he became an amateur radio operator, building his first ham radios by hand. Roger was active in local radio clubs, including the Escondido Amateur Radio Society (EARS), where he worked on the club's radio tower equipment, presented at meetings, and often aided communications at the Escondido Holiday Parade. Roger was issued his first radio call sign WN6ZAG in 1957, but also held several vanity calls over the years, including W6ZAG, KH6RG, and AA6I later on in life. He held his last call sign, K6EQ, for many years as an Extra Class amateur radio operator.

As a young man, Roger proudly served his country for a full term with the United States Coast Guard from 1966–1970 as a Communications Electronics Technician. He would often joke, "When you signed up for the Coast Guard, they never told you which coast you were going to be guarding." Roger served aboard the USCG Cutter Minnetonka during his Vietnam War tour. In the aftermath of the famous USS Pueblo incident, he played a key role in the re-securing of stolen radio communications equipment and covert codes.

After his military term, Roger graduated from Cal State Long Beach and worked at Motorola and other radio communication companies for over 30 years. He held many titles in many departments, including systems engineering, product marketing, manufacturers' rep, project management, and sales. Roger excelled working in sales for his clients, including local police and fire departments, because he knew the equipment inside and out. He was also an instrumental project manager for installation of the very first cellular phone towers in San Diego County. Roger even recalled being witness to the very first mobile phone call ever made from a car.

Roger's varied interests in music led him to meet his beloved wife, Gretchen, through the North County Bluegrass and Folk Club, where he served as the club's President for a time. Roger could often be seen entertaining the crowd with his guitar or mandolin during the club's monthly meetings and at music festivals. Roger combined his musical talents with friends by performing in a bluegrass band called, "Down the Road." The band did extremely well in local, regional and national competitions, featuring at many public and private events in the area. They were twice selected as the San Diego Bluegrass Society's Fan's Choice in a popular vote and are the proud winners of Championship Band for the year 2000 in the Southwest's National Bluegrass Playoffs. They went onto to play at the annual International Bluegrass Music Association Festival (IBMA) held in Louisville, Kentucky. Later in life, Roger was able to enjoy full-time RVing with Gretchen, where he continued to play bluegrass and folk music with other musicians around the country.

Roger will be remembered for his warm, caring and optimistic personality. He cherished his family, and often said that his children's successes were his life's most treasured accomplishment.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Roger's name to The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (<https://www.themmrp.org/donate-to-mmrf/>).

A private family burial service with military honors was conducted on September 4th at Miramar National Cemetery, coordinated by Alhiser-Comer Mortuary. A memorial service will follow at a later date to be scheduled by the family. Please contact 760-807-2756 for details.