



Rick Coblentz

1944-2026

Richard Eugene Coblentz, lovingly known as “Rick,” passed away on January 9, 2026, at the age of 81. He was born on April 14, 1944, in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Rick was a 1967 graduate of Oklahoma State University, earning a degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering. He devoted many years to a remarkable career at NASA, contributing to historic programs including Apollo, Apollo-Soyuz, Skylab, the Space Shuttle, the International Space Station, and Orion. Beginning in landing and recovery during the Apollo missions, Rick went on to hold a variety of engineering and management roles. He took great pride in his work and in being part of projects that advanced human space exploration.

In his retirement years, Rick made his home in League City and Georgetown, Texas. He embraced life with energy and enthusiasm, especially cherishing time spent with his family. He found joy in playing the guitar and banjo, line dancing, and staying active through regular fitness activities. His curiosity, dedication, and love of learning stayed with him throughout his life.

Rick was preceded in death by his parents, Gene and Helen Coblentz. He is survived by his sister, Carole Barnes; his brother, Kevin Coblentz; his daughters, Catherine Boyle and Karen Coblentz; three grandchildren, Morgan, Madison, and Gage; and two great-grandchildren. All of his family were deeply loved by him and will carry his legacy of kindness, curiosity, and joy forward.