



Dmitry Aygunov

September 16, 1945 - August 31, 2023

Dmitry M. Aygunov was born on September 16, 1945, in Leningrad, Russia in the tumultuous aftermath of World War II. His life was a remarkable journey that spanned continents, leaving an enduring impression in the hearts of those who knew him.

Dmitry was born to a Jewish mother and a Dagestan father whose paths crossed in a hospital, where his mother, a dedicated nurse, cared for his father as he recovered from the injuries sustained during the war. This poignant meeting set the stage for Dmitry's life, which was marked by compassion, fortitude, and an enduring commitment to family.

Growing up in a communal apartment in the heart of the Soviet Union, Dmitry navigated the complex landscape of his time with remarkable independence of thought. Despite the pervasive influence of the communist regime, he managed to avoid becoming a member of the Young Pioneers and Komsomol, carving his own path and never succumbing to the political pressures of the era. His ability to hold true to his principles of honesty and integrity while living in the midst of a soviet Russia was a testament to his unwavering character.

Dmitry's pursuit of knowledge led him to the Shipbuilding Institute of Leningrad, where he earned a master's degree in engineering. He continued to apply his engineering expertise with diligence, while shrouded in secrecy as

he spent the majority of his career working within closed government organizations on Russian's top-secret patented projects. Among his many contributions, Dmitry played a pivotal role in the development of a groundbreaking invention—the flight recording device, best known as the "black box." He held six patents and was proud of making an important impact on aviation safety.

Despite his high clearance status in the Soviet Union, Dmitry's life took a different turn when he met his future wife, Eleonore. In a brave move, he changed jobs and began working for commercial Russian plants specializing in the development of microchips and computer equipment. This shift in his career was driven by his unwavering commitment to building a family with Eleonore and her daughter, Victoria, and it marked the beginning of their extraordinary journey together.

With the winds of change heralded by Perestroika sweeping through the Soviet Union, Dmitry and his family saw a glimmer of hope on the horizon. In 1989, they made the life-altering decision to emigrate, and they arrived in Houston, Texas in March of 1990. Dmitry's transition to life in the United States was not without its challenges, but he embraced each obstacle with grace and resilience. He toiled tirelessly, working well into his 70s.

Dmitry was also a world class athlete. His passion for cycling emerged during his college years when he became a varsity member of the cycling team. He raced on his bicycle across the vast expanse of the Soviet Union and even ventured abroad, earning recognition as an outstanding athlete in the world of cycling. His dedication to the sport was a testament to his boundless determination and competitive spirit.

While his professional and athletic accomplishments were remarkable, Dmitry's true legacy lay in his family. He is survived by his beloved daughter,

Victoria, and her family, which includes his cherished granddaughter, Nika - a source of his immense joy and pride. Dmitry's sister, Irina, and her two children and their families also mourn his loss.

Despite the challenges that life presented, Dmitry's bond with Eleonore remained unbroken. Their enduring friendship and unwavering support for each other, even after their separation, showcased the depth of their undying love and commitment to their family.

Dmitry's gratitude extended not only to his family but also to the many friends he left behind in Russia and made in America. His spirit was one of generosity, kindness, and a deep appreciation for all the opportunities life had presented him.

Dmitry Aygunov will forever be remembered for his hard work, his intellect, and his love for family and friends. His legacy will live on in the hearts of all those who were fortunate enough to know and love him.

May his soul find eternal peace, and may his memory continue to inspire us all.