

# Dick Merrill, 59

## *Invented Sensor For Digital Cameras; Lineage Goes Back To Norman Williams; Many Hobbies And Interests*

WOODSIDE, Calif. – A memorial service for Richard Billings Merrill, 59, who died from cancer Oct. 17, 2008 at his home, will be held May 23, 2009 in Woodstock.

Dick was born on Aug. 18, 1949 in New York, NY, the youngest son of Dr. Frederick Hamilton Merrill and Joan Williams Merrill.

He was married to Sengchanh Phomphanh in 1996. She provided him support and encouragement throughout his life, and loving care during his final illness.

He was the adoptive grandson of Richard Billings, and also of the grandson of Norman Williams of the family who donated the library in Woodstock.

Dick was educated in Woodstock, Coral Shores High School on the Florida Keys, UVM and Dartmouth, where he got an MS in Electrical Engineering.

Dick's career was with National Semi Conductor, where he started in 1980. At NSC, he worked on chip design and became well known in that field, eventually developing more than 100 patents. In 1997, NSC convinced him to become the head engineer for a start-up company, Foveon, work that became the basis for his lifetime's achievement, the development of the X3 direct sensor used in Sigma Cameras.

Dick loved taking pictures with his Sigma camera, and putting them on the web along with the thousands of images sent in by other photographers; diving on the Florida reefs; skiing, hiking and traveling, especially on railroads.

Survivors include his wife, Sengphon; three brothers, William of Blackhawk, Co., Frederick of Woodstock and Norman of Sheffield, Mass.; and four nephews, Frederick of Atlanta, GA, Gabe of Ewa Beach, HI, Norman of Chester and Richard of Martinsburg, WV; and by his numerous friends in the Sigma and Foveon Community.

Donations in his memory may be made to the American Red Cross, The Humane Society, or Pathways Hospice of Sunnyvale, CA.

Services are under the direction of the Cabot Funeral Home in Woodstock.