



Eligius Anthony Wolicki

May 10, 1927 - February 18, 2011

Alexandria, VA: Dr. Eligius A. Wolicki, 83, passed away February 18th, surrounded by family at his home after a long illness. He was courageous to the end.

He was born in Buffalo, NY to Polish immigrants Katarzyna and Karol Wolicki in 1927, on the day Lindbergh left for Paris, May 10. He was the grandson of feudal serfs! The youngest of five children, he grew up during the Great Depression, helping with the family grocery business, and excelling in school. He attended Kensington public high school in Buffalo. He received a wartime accelerated magna cum laude B.S. in Physics from Canisius College, Buffalo, in 1946, at the age of 19, and a PhD in Nuclear Physics from the University of Notre Dame in 1950, at the age of 23. He worked at the University of Iowa under Dr. VanAllen, and then came to the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C. in 1952 where he worked until his first retirement in 1984 . He received a Meritorious Civilian Service award while serving as Acting Superintendent of the Nuclear Sciences Division in 1971. He authored and collaborated on numerous scientific articles, chaired international meetings, and developed several patents. His second career as a consultant saw him elected to fellowship in the American Physical Society and also the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. He was proudest of coining the term "single event upset" which concept was critical to the development of successful modern satellite communications. He left his scientific careers in

1995.

After his second retirement, he devoted himself to playing piano, composing music, dabbling in philosophy, and continuing his world travels. Together with his beloved wife, Wilma, he traveled to six of the seven continents, 40 countries, and most of the states. Highlights included China after the Nixon détente, New Guinea, Australia, Turkey, Cambodia, Argentina, Peru, the Galapagos Islands, and Egypt.

He was self-taught at the piano, which passion he passed on to his children and grandchildren, and at music composition. He sang at church, and with the Alexandria Harmonizers. He played ping-pong and tennis into his 80's, danced, and served as a volunteer role model of "can do" activities following double-hip replacements at the Inova Mount Vernon Hospital

He enjoyed fellowship and service as a brother in the Knights of Columbus, Mount Vernon Council.

He is preceded in death by his parents, two older siblings in infancy, and his brother, Edward, who died in WWII. He is survived by an older sister, Laura Bylebyl, of N. Tonawonda, NY, his wife of 56 years, Wilma Pitsenbarger Wolicki, four children, (Dr. Karol and Valerie Wolicki, Greensboro, NC; Dr. Ann and Marc Ascher, Lebanon, NJ; Stasia and Patrick Rhoads, and Stefanie and Scott Jarrell, all of Northern Virginia), and five grandchildren (Caitrin, Matthew, and Patrick Rhoads, Alexandria, VA, and Thaddeus and Kadja Wolicki, Greensboro, NC)

Services are planned for St. Louis Catholic Church, Wednesday, 23 FEB at 11:00 AM.

Special thanks and heartfelt appreciation to his loving home health care aids,

Annie and Joyce, and to Capital Hospice for their assistance during his illness.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests donation to KOVAR to assist intellectually disabled children, c/o Knights of Columbus, 8592 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria, VA 22309.

Tribute Wall



“ *Eligius Anthony Wolicki*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *Aunt Tot and family, We are so sorry for your loss. We are thinking of you and wishing you strength and comfort during this difficult time. Brooke and Sabrina Weedon*

February 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *I am very sorry of to hear of Dr. Wolicki's passing. He was my supervisor for many years while working at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory.*

February 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Wilma and Family: Our hearts are saddened as we grieve Al's passing with you. We will never forget the good times together. Bill and I thank God always for our friendship with you both and we will cherish many happy memories. Wilma, you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Dianne & Bill Sweeny*

February 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Karol and Val, I am so very sorry for your loss. May your memories give you strength. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Love, LaDonna*

February 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Karol and Val, I am so sorry for your loss and just know that you are both in my thoughts and prayers. May your many wonderful memories of your father comfort you now and in the future. Love to you both, Treva

February 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Karol and Val, I am so sorry to hear the news of the loss of your father. You are so fortunate to have such a close family to share in comforting each other. Love you both. Karen and Ed

February 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ My sincerest sympathy on the passing of Mr. Wolicki, your father, husband, friend. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

February 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ God bless my Uncle, he was an awesome man. I loved him and I know he will be greatly missed by my Aunt and cousins. As painful as his leaving is, the joy of a family reunion in heaven will be beyond anything we can ever imagine. This separation, although painful, is only temporary. To my Aunt Tot: I'm sorry I couldn't be there but, you have been in my prayers. God will be with you, He's right by your side. Even if you can't see Him or feel Him. He loves you so much. To my Cousins, Carl, Annie, Stachia, and Stephanie: Love you guys, I miss seeing everyone. Your dad is in great hands and dearly loved by our Father. Blessings, Robin

February 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *This is indeed sad news. I always liked and respected Al. He was always encouraging to we young (at the time) scientists.*

February 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our family sends our love and condolence at this time. We always enjoyed Mr. Wolicki's welcoming spirit and loving hugs at the Rhoads' family gatherings. We will miss "Grandpa's" stories and music but know that he left a proud legacy of both. Love to all of you. The Vermillion family*

February 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our prayers and thoughts are truly heartfelt. Your wonderful family is Dr. Wolicki's legacy.*

February 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Karol and Val, You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Memories, share them all. Memories are so healing. Love, Leila and Bo*

February 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *We are very saddened to hear about Dr. Wolicki's passing. Our heartfelt condolences to the entire family at this time. We hope that you take comfort in the wonderful legacy he leaves behind. The world is a better place because of all of you. How proud he must be! Love, Susan and Bob Shields*

February 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I extend heartfelt condolences to the Wolicki family. It appeared to me that everyone who met Al liked him, and I have certainly lost a friend. Somehow we stumbled across the fact that we were both Notre Dame Alumni and both in science. I have great respect for him as a scientist and as a human being. He was a wonderful and successful man.

February 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Our sincerest sympathy on the passing of Mr. Wolicki. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

February 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ We will truly miss you...all the wonderful childhood memories with Stefanie and the sleepovers we had at your home. The wonderful morning breakfast....pancakes...then I believe it was church...or did we eat afterwards. You always treated me as a family member-always welcomed in your home. Memories of Carl practicing piano....Stefanie too....she always had to practice first! Stasia playing flute....I always loved the sound of it. Now my daughter plays it too! Oh...putting on makeup-using Stasa's and her Aziza eye make-up. Bike rides to and from your house.....It was wonderful growing up as a teenager being a part of your family! As an adult you always gave me hugs and kisses at Church and when the family gathered at West PO for your Grandchildren's band pot luck dinners before they marched. Thank you for introducing our family to the Aviles family when we moved across the river to end up being their neighbors They are my extended family now too thanks to you! I will treasure this.

February 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ It was my privilege to know Mr Wolicki for many years as a fellow parishoner at St Louis where we met and discovered that we shared common Polish roots. That cemented our friendship for ever afterward. It was, therefore, also an honor to serve as Eucharistic Minister to Mr Wolicki for several months prior to his death where we continued our friendship and were able to converse in Polish, which was a mutual pleasure. I will miss him very much but am grateful to have known such a charming and kind gentleman. Idz z Bogiem, Panie Wolicki. Anna (Pani Schultz)

February 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Karol and Val, We are so sorry for your loss. You both and the entire family are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Skip and Connie

February 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ We are very sorry for your loss. Please know our thoughts are with the family at this time.

February 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Our deepest sympathy at the loss of a very special friend in our lives. We believe that he has earned a well deserved place in heaven with no more pain or suffering. We will keep all of you in our thoughts and prayers. The memory of the days we spent together will never be forgotten. Rest in Peace dearest friend.

February 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM