



Dr. Felix John Pierce

November 5, 1932 - January 24, 2023

Dr. Felix John Pierce, “Papa”, 90, of Blacksburg, Va., passed away peacefully in his home on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, surrounded by his loving family and dedicated caregivers.

Felix was a graduate of University of Rhode Island, and Cornell University. A gifted professor, mentor, and researcher, he shared his talents with the community and as a professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department at Virginia Tech. Felix was a university educator for 40 years, and his research resulted in more than 50 publications and a textbook on thermodynamics. He will always be cherished as a loving, patient spouse, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend.

In addition to his parents and his six brothers and sisters, he was preceded in death by his loving wife of 64 years, Sally Sutcliffe Pierce. Felix is survived by his daughter Patricia Pierce Jones, daughter Jennifer Pierce Hody, son Dr. Christopher Pierce, as well as eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. The family will always be especially grateful for his loving and dedicated caregivers, Diana Kennedy, Tina Houston, and Kelly Apisa.

His interment will be held in a private ceremony, at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Blacksburg.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Alzheimer’s Association.

Tribute Wall

FP

“ Dr. Pierce taught me Internal Flow when I was a ME graduate student at VT in 1984. He expected much of his students, but provided his own lecture notes for the students to use outside of class. This was before the internet and took some effort on his part. I still have (and show off occasionally), the full derivation of the Navier-Stokes equations from his lectures! I saw him many years later at Mike’s Grill, met his wife, and thanked him for the time he took with me. My wife overheard his comments as they walked out “see there are students that remember me well”. I do remember him well and appreciate him sharing his knowledge with so many of us.

Frank Pinckney
MS ME 1985

Frank Pinckney - January 28, 2023 at 12:06 AM