



## Norman Smith Eiss Jr.

March 13, 1931 - June 12, 2023

BLACKSBURG – Norman Smith Eiss Jr. died peacefully at home June 12, 2023, at the age of 92 after a three year battle with cancer. Norm is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Nancy Jean (Siegrist) Eiss; his children Martin Eiss (Jeanne), Christine Wyckoff (John), Jennifer Volland (Doug); stepfather of Jeffrey (Jeff) Schmidt and Pamela Klustner (Gary Johnson); grandfather of Lauren Bridgers, Madison Drysden, Sydney Eiss, Nicole Fiscus, Ally Volland, Jay Klustner, Jordan Klustner, and Kaleyanna Schmidt. Great grandfather of Theo Bridgers, Violet Bridgers, Zoe Drysden, Amelie Drysden and Hudson Fiscus. Brother of Valerie Koch, Mary Andrus, Martie Preg and Dorothy Maritime. Norm was born in Buffalo, New York, March 13, 1931 and has been a resident of Blacksburg, Virginia since 1966. He retired as a member of the Mechanical Engineering Department in 1998. Norm graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1953 and began work at DuPont's rayon plant in Buffalo as a mechanical process engineer. He left the company a year later to become an officer in the U.S. Air Force, specializing in radar maintenance. In 1956, he joined the Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory where he worked as a mechanical engineer for seven years. He took time off to earn M.S. and Ph.D degrees from Cornell University where he also taught as an instructor in mechanisms. As a member of the Mechanical Engineering Department at VT, he authored numerous papers related to polymer wear mechanisms and surface topography characterization and participated actively in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the

Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers, the American Society of Engineering Educations and the American Society of Testing Materials. He had a long record of service to these societies, including chairing numerous technical and planning committees and national and international conferences. He was also a director of STLE and in 1988 he was elevated to the membership grade of Fellow in this society. In 1989 he was named the George R. Goodson, Jr. Professor of Mechanical Engineering. In addition to an active career, Norm had numerous hobbies and interests. He especially enjoyed family gathers like trips to the beach. He enjoyed traveling, gardening, the arts, hiking canoeing, white water rafting and tennis. He was also active in community organizations, including the Community Foundation of the NRV, Life Long Living Institute, Habitat for Humanity, YMCA at VT, the Moss Center. AARP and Warm Hearth Foundation. The family would like to thank friends and neighbors, the Good Samaritan Hospice team, doctors, nurses and aides for their love and support during this difficult time. A Celebration of Life for Norm will be held on July 22, 2023, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, at the Tall Oaks room of the Village Center at Warm Hearth Village.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUL **22**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Warm Hearth Village Center  
2387 Warm Hearth Drive  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

# Tribute Wall

FF

“ From your SGR Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Norman Smith Eiss Jr..

From your SGR Family - July 18, 2023 at 10:16 AM

FF

“ From your SGR Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Norman Smith Eiss Jr..



From your SGR Family - July 18, 2023 at 10:16 AM

TT

“ We're thinking of you, Nancy, and family. We are so thankful our paths got to cross over the years. Norm always had a welcoming word and a warm smile to greet one and all. We always learned something new from Norm and appreciated him broadening our horizons. Wishing you all lots of comforting hugs, words, peace, and love at this difficult time.  
Trudy and Art Taylor

Trudy and Art Taylor - June 15, 2023 at 11:27 AM

MS

“ My condolences to the Eiss Family during this difficult time. Sending prayers.

Maletha Searcy - June 13, 2023 at 09:32 AM

DJ

“ Nancy and family, I am so sorry to hear of Norm’s passing. I remember fondly seeing him around the halls of VT when I worked in engineering and of course at Education Administration functions. Will be thinking of you in the future as you navigate your grief.  
Diana Jones-Cox

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**Diana Jones-Cox** - June 13, 2023 at 09:12 AM