



## Siegfried Mathias Holzer

August 24, 1936 - March 22, 2023

(August 24, 1936 - March 22, 2023)

Siegfried Mathias Holzer passed away recently. He was born in Radstadt, Austria and attended high school in Salzburg. He immigrated to the United States in 1956 and stayed with family in Kansas while working at the Kansas City Steel Company and other structural engineering firms. He earned Bachelors and Masters degrees from Kansas University, and a PhD from the University of Illinois. He became a naturalized citizen in 1961.

He was a professor of engineering at Virginia Tech from 1972 to 2002 and was passionate about teaching and fostering an engaging learning environment. His enthusiasm was contagious; he connected with students and received numerous accolades over the years. He was elected to VT's Academy of Teaching Excellence in 1974. In 1986 he became the second person to win the National Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Honorary Society Award for excellence in teaching. He received the Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education in 1989, and in 1995 he was designated an Alumni Distinguished Professor.

He always loved nature and enjoyed time outdoors, whether it be hiking, skiing, playing tennis, gardening, or working on his tree farm. Family vacations to the beach and Blue Ridge Parkway were a regular occurrence. In retirement he took daily trips to the Christiansburg Recreation Center for exercising and socializing. He was a voracious reader, and he joined a book club and volunteered to teach English to foreign students. He enjoyed

spending time with family and friends, chatting and telling stories over wine, or corresponding with distant friends and relatives over phone and email. He could often be found working around the yard or tinkering on a project around the house.

He is survived by his wife Gail, sons Michael (Eddie) and Matthew (Kelly), stepson Lance, and granddaughter Audrey; sister-in-law Hope; siblings Josef, Christine, and Elfrieda; half-brothers Peter, Walter, and Dragutin; and numerous nieces and nephews. His father Josef passed away in 1989; mother Genoveva passed away in 2005. He was preceded in death by brother Herbert and half-sister Susie.

No services are planned at this time.

# Tribute Wall

LM

“ *Dr. Holzer was one of my favorite professors at Va Tech. I remember him asking me if people could tell his oatmeal colored cardigan was a girl’s cardigan because the buttons were reversed. Since he was slight of build, a girl’s sweater fit him. He was my professor in the early ‘80s. I don’t know why he popped into my head and I decided to look him up this evening Nov. 8th 2024. Belated condolences to his family.*

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**lisa mcadam** - November 08, 2024 at 08:51 PM

WH

“ *A light for the last journey, in love Walter and Hedy, Anna with the baby, Marietta, Lilly and Lena*

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**Walter Holzer** - April 11, 2023 at 05:40 AM

TT

“ *Toni Trani lit a candle in memory of Siegfried Mathias Holzer*



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**Toni Trani** - April 09, 2023 at 09:07 PM

OL

“ *Olive Lee lit a candle in memory of Siegfried Mathias Holzer*



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**Olive Lee** - April 05, 2023 at 08:05 AM

JW

“ I lived across the street when he lived in Kansas. I was a little girl at the time and remember being a flower girl for one of the brothers, still have the pearl necklace they gave me. Dragie and my brother were best friends. I was doing some spring cleaning the other day and came across a congratulations card from Siegfried when I graduated from Kansas University. So sorry for your loss.



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**Jelena (Djiko) Wittwer** - April 04, 2023 at 12:26 PM

SS

“ Sandy Simpkins lit a candle in memory of Siegfried Mathias Holzer



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**sandy Simpkins** - March 31, 2023 at 08:10 PM

TH

“ Such a wonderful and caring human being that always brought happiness to every moment spent with him. He was always sharing and thinking of others and loved talking about his family. Every conversation was so golden because you learned and laughed about...everything. He will be truly missed by many-Trisha Heidt, RDH

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**Trisha Heidt** - March 31, 2023 at 06:21 PM