
Arlen Francis Carter(1932 - 2016)

NEWPORT NEWS - Arlen Francis Carter was born in Stephens City, VA on April 20, 1932, the son of Frances Virginia and Arthur Ripley Carter. Arlen, 83, passed away at home on March 29, 2016 and is survived by his loving wife Mary Lou Carter and his three children, John E. Carter and his wife, Leslie, of Fairfax, VA, Frances C. McSherry and her husband, Clint, of Durham, NC, and Daniel R. Carter and his wife, Anne, of Sparrows Point, MD. Arlen had seven devoted grandchildren, Sarah E. McSherry of Brooklyn, NY, W. Clint McSherry III of Durham, NC, John Andrew Carter, Elizabeth W. Carter, Emma L. Carter of Fairfax, VA, Megan L. Lynch and Daniel R. Carter of Sparrows Point, MD. Arlen is also survived by his brother-in-law Dr. John P. Clarke and his wife, Joyce, and sister-in-law Frances A. Clarke, of Virginia Beach, VA. Arlen was a four-letter scholar-athlete during his years at Poquoson High School. He attended the University of Virginia on an academic scholarship where he earned his Engineering degree and pitched for the UVA baseball team. Arlen was also recruited by the Pittsburgh Pirates to pitch for their minor league team. After college, Arlen spent 40 amazing years as a NASA Engineer at Langley Research Center in Hampton, VA. Along with another NASA scientist, one of Arlen's first projects was to design Echo 1, the world's first communications satellite. He also spent many years working on the Viking mission to Mars. He designed the landing rocket engines on the Viking lander, as well as providing technical direction on Martian landing sites and surface science experiments. Arlen also played a pivotal role in the selection and use of active remote sensing technologies for the study of our planet's changing climate. He devoted the final years of his career working as an integral part of the team measuring the expanding ozone holes over the North and South Poles. When Arlen's three children were young, he spent many evenings coaching or supporting their various sports teams. Together, Arlen and Mary Lou organized many memorable family camping trips to National Parks, Adventure Parks, and historical sites, as well as numerous adventure-filled snow skiing and beach trips. Arlen was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Newport News all of his adult life. He served as President of the Men's Club and as Chairman of the Council of Ministries, and he was a member of the church board for many years. As a retiree, Arlen enjoyed spending time with his family and friends at the Outer Banks, traveling extensively with his wife, family and friends, reading, and playing bridge with fellow members of the Peninsula bridge club. The family wishes to express deep heart-felt thanks to all the wonderful staff at the Riverside Peninsula Cancer Institute, particularly Dr. George Kannarkat and loving nurses, Jane, Lillian, Sherease, and LaToya, and to all the special Riverside Hospice staff. A Memorial Service will take place at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, April 2, 2016 at First United Methodist Church officiated by The Rev. Robert L. Haley. A Reception at the church will follow the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church, 10246 Warwick Blvd, NN, VA 23601. Arrangements are by Weymouth Funeral Home.

Funeral Home**Weymouth Funeral Home**

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