



Imre Joseph Barsy

Imre Joseph Barsy, 94, passed away peacefully on Monday, June 16, 2008 at the Lancaster General Hospital while under hospice care. His wife and family were at his side.

Born on October 21, 1913 in Kassa, Hungary, he was the son of the late Imre and Jan Mondada Barsy. His father died in 1919, a victim of the flu epidemic that had spread throughout Europe. Imre and his mother left Hungary in 1923 to join Karl F. Erdos who had emigrated from Hungary to Havana, Cuba. Karl later became Imre's stepfather. The family came to the U.S. in 1927. They first lived in St. Louis, MO, then in Birmingham, AL and later in Allentown, PA. Imre became a U.S. citizen in 1938. He graduated from Lehigh University in 1939 with an honors degree in Engineering Physics. He was also a member of the honorary engineering society, Tau Beta Pi. He continued his education at the University of Pennsylvania and received a masters degree in Physics from Franklin & Marshall College in 1954.

Imre first came to Lancaster in 1939 to work for the former Hamilton Watch Co. In 1944, he joined the physics department at Armstrong World Industries, where he worked as a Senior Research Scientist until his retirement in 1978. Imre was also an active member of the American Society of Testing Materials and was elected to Sigma Pi Sigma, the honorary physics society.

After retiring, Imre volunteered at the North Museum on a thermoluminescence project to date Native American pottery. For many years he served on the steering committee for Quest, an educational program for senior citizens. He also tutored student athletes at McCaskey High School in Chemistry.

Family and friends were truly important aspects of Imre's life. He and his wife, Helen, were married for 61 years. They raised two children, Imre, Jr. and Louise, both now living in California. He and Helen took many trips to visit them over the years.

Imre also had a long-time love of classical music. Both he and Helen enjoyed attending Philadelphia Orchestra concerts and, later, those of the Lancaster Symphony. In addition, he was a faithful listener of the Metropolitan Opera broadcasts. He also had been a member of the First Presbyterian Church for 52 years.

Imre is survived by his wife, Helen; son, Imre J. Barsy, Jr. (husband of Debra) of Yukka Valley, CA; daughter, Louise Barsy Colgan (wife of Sean) of Newark, CA; grandson, Imre J. Barsy III (husband of Shannon) and great-granddaughters, Rebekah and Rachel, of Newbury Park, CA. He was preceded in death by an infant son, Kent David, and half-sister, Paula Erdos Laudenslager.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend a memorial service in the First Presbyterian Church, 140 E. Orange St., Lancaster, PA on Friday, July 18, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. The family will greet friends at the church on Friday, July 18th, from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service. Interment will be private and at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the Music Ministry at the First Presbyterian Church, 140 E. Orange St., Lancaster, PA 17602. Arrangements are by Kearney A. Snyder Funeral Home; 394-4097. To send an on-line condolence, please visit www.kearneyasnryderfuneralho...