



Chalmers F Sechrist Jr.

AUG 23, 1930 - OCT 29, 2020



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Chalmers F Sechrist Jr.

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Chalmers F. Sechrist, Jr. was born on August 23, 1930 and reared in Glen Rock (York County) Pennsylvania. His parents were Chalmers F. Sechrist and Lottie Smith Sechrist. He was married to the late Beatrice Myers Sechrist in Burnham (Lewistown) Pennsylvania on June 29, 1957. They enjoyed 62 years of marriage together. He is survived by his son, Jonathan and wife Nancy, and daughter Jennifer Sechrist Mai and her husband Phillip Mai. Chalmers graduated from Glen Rock High School in 1948. In 1952 he graduated with honors from The Johns Hopkins University with the B.E. degree in electrical engineering. At the Pennsylvania State University, he received the M.S. degree in electrical engineering in 1954, and the PhD degree in electrical engineering in January 1959. From 1959 to 1965 he was a Staff Engineer in the Research Department of HRB-Singer, Inc. in State College, Pennsylvania. From 1965 to 1992 at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, he rose from Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering to Professor of ECE, Associate Head of the ECE Department, and Assistant Dean of Engineering where he assisted with the creation of student exchange programs with universities including Japan, China, and Russia. His research in the Aeronomy Laboratory was involved with the lower ionospheric D region and he supervised graduate students who investigated the winter anomaly, seasonal and diurnal variations in the electron concentration vs. altitude, based on rocket measurements and computer models of the ion and neutral chemistry. Between 1992 and 1996 while on a Leave of Absence he served as a Program Manager in the Division of Undergraduate Education at the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C. In 1996 he retired from the UIUC and moved to Fort Myers, Florida where he joined in 1998 the new Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) as an Adjunct Professor of Engineering. He created and taught several courses in engineering and technology. In 2005 he was appointed to the Advisory Board and assisted with the formation of



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the School of Engineering. During the period 1997 to 2012, he was a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary where he taught several courses and qualified as Coxswain to command a patrol vessel on weekends. Also, from 2009 to 2016 he served on several committees and the Resident Council at Cypress Cove retirement community in Fort Myers. Between 2012 and 2016 he was President of the FLiCRA chapter (Florida Life Care Retirement Association) that works with the Florida State Legislature to ensure the benefits of residing in a CCRC (Continuing Care Retirement Community). Chalmers' interests have included: photography, amateur radio, golf, tennis, sail and power boating, and volunteering. Also of interest is the preparation of talks on topics such as: global warming and climate change, fixing systems that should be upgraded and updated, and what the Boomers plan to do in their retirement years. Chalmers is a member of the American Geophysical Union (AGU), the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), and is a Life Fellow of the Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE). In addition, he is listed in Who's Who in America.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: Philanthropy Fund at Cypress Cove, 10200 Cypress Cove Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33908. Memo: In memory of Chalmers Sechrist.

Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Funeral Home is entrusted with final arrangements, 1589 Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33907. To leave an online condolence please visit www.fortmyersmemorial.com



Tribute Wall

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MN

Mike Norris posted:

As an undergraduate at University of Illinois, I had the honor of having Dr. Sechrist as an advisor. He once told me one of the most prophetic predictions to guide me through graduate school decisions that were before me. He told me, in life, doors will open and others will close. Occasionally a door will open and you will step through, knowing almost nothing about what awaits you on the other side. Once through the door, you will keep walking and before long, whatever you have encountered, will seem normal. At some point you will look back and wonder how you got where you are standing. Such are some of the most momentous decisions we make in life. He was so right. An amazing teacher and guide. The world will be a little less without him.

January 15 at 12:51 PM

JM

Jamie Moesch posted:

My sincere condolences to Mr. Sechrist's family. As the Managing Director of IEEE Educational Activities, I would very much like to recognize his dedication to our profession and serving the next generation. With sympathy, Jamie Moesch (IEEE, Educational Activities)

February 2 at 6:25 AM

TS

Trudy Sampson posted:

As President of the Scientists' Society, I would like to extend the sympathies from everyone in our organizations. Chalmers had a wonderful and impressive education and career. Our engineering members are most impressed by his accomplishments. He was a very nice and interesting person to have at our meeting table. He will be missed. With Deepest Sympathy, Trudy Sampson, President, Scientists' Society of SWFL

November 17 at 7:41 AM

JA

Jim Applegate posted:

I so thoroughly enjoyed working with Chalmers and Bea. I can truthfully say they were one of the nicest couples/clients I have ever known...always smiling, and always looking at the bright side of things. I never heard either of them utter an unkind word about anyone. It was truly a pleasure working with them and I will miss them both. Jim Applegate, CFP Financial Services Advisory, Inc.

November 12 at 12:10 PM



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LS

Lori Sampson lit a candle in honor of Chalmers.

Chalmers and Beatrice were long time clients of ours and they will both be missed. For over 20 years we enjoyed a delightful relationship and always looked forward to meeting with them about their taxes and speaking to them by phone over last few years when they were no longer able to come to the office.

They both had a delightful sense of humor and wonderful stories to share when we were together. While our hearts feel empty, we shall fill them with the wonderful memories we shared with both of them. Steve Brettholtz, Lori Sampson and Kathy Stefanacci, Myers, Brettholtz & Company, PA

November 3 at 12:00 PM



KC

Kathleen Cassidy posted:

From all of us at Elite Transportation.....Chalmers will always hold a warm spot in our hearts. We all enjoyed a trip or more with Chalmers and his wonderful family.

November 1 at 3:54 AM

MG

Marv Geller posted:

Lynda and I fondly remember Chalmers' and Bea's hospitality when Lynda (then 21) and I (then 26) arrived in Champaign-Urbana in 1969 to take up my Assistant Professor position, and Lynda to continue her schooling. I collaborated with Chalmers on research, and we became friends. Our friendship continued to the end. Lynda and I always sought to visit them when we were in the Fort Myers vicinity. The world has lost a wonderful gentleman scientist, and we have lost a friend with his passing.

October 29 at 10:13 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Chalmers by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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