



PRIEST, Dr. Joseph R. of Oxford, Ohio died Friday, September 25, 2009. Born on October 14, 1929 in Highland, Ohio to John Wingate and Josephine McConnell Priest, he is preceded in death by brothers James and Paul 'Bud' Priest, sister Josephine 'Sally' Thompson and daughter Mary Jo Priest. Upon graduating high school, Joe received his undergraduate degree in Physics from Wilmington College in 1951. He served his country during the Korean War, and then went on to receive his Masters degree from Miami University in 1956 and PhD from Purdue University in 1960, both in Physics. After working for IBM in Poughkeepsie, New York he began his career in higher education as a professor of Physics at Miami

University in 1962. He spent the next 45 years at Miami where he left an incredible impact on the lives of countless students. He enjoyed a reputation not just as a brilliant physicist and scholar, but also a passionate and energetic educator who cared deeply about his students. In 1990 he was presented the Alumni Educator award from Wilmington College and in 1993, became the first science professor in Miami's College of Arts and Sciences, to teach abroad for a semester at the university's Luxembourg campus. In 1994 Joe was awarded the prestigious Harrison Medallion from Miami University. During his career at Miami he published three textbooks including Energy: Principles, Problems, Alternatives which is still in use in its sixth edition. Joe married Mary Jean Ranft on May 30, 1959 in Indianapolis, IN; together, they enjoyed fifty years of marriage. They were very active in the Oxford and Miami communities as well as St. Mary's Church and Catholic Campus Ministry where they served as mentors and role models to friends, peers, students and young couples. Joe had a great love for the outdoors, in particular gardening, biking, traveling and the ocean. He viewed one of his

greatest accomplishments as the construction of his family's home on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. With the help of many friends he built the entire house himself; over the last twenty-five years the beach house was a source of immense pride for him and became a place where a lifetime of family memories were created. Joe's joy in life came from the time spent with Mary Jean, his children and grandchildren. Known as 'Pop Pop' to his grandchildren he treasured the time spent with them at home and the beach. The family is profoundly grateful to everyone at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute, in particular Dr. Pierluigi Porcu, for the care he received over the last three years. Optimism, courage, dignity and perseverance best characterize this time and place he had reached in his life. Joe is survived by his wife Mary Jean, son John and wife Martha (Hutcheson) Priest, grandchildren Katie, Mallory, Joseph Hutcheson and Mary McConnell of The Woodlands, TX, daughter Catherine Priest of Columbus, OH and son Daniel and wife Tricia (Jenkins) Priest, grandchildren, Jake, Mitch and Carly Priest of Conway, AR. Those wishing to make a memorial contribution can do so to either The Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital, T-Cell Lymphoma Research Fund (#312238), in memory of Joseph R. Priest, attn: Wendy O'Brien, OSU Medical Center Development & Alumni Affairs, Stewardship & Donor Relations, 660 Ackerman Road, P.O. Box 183112, Columbus, OH 43218, or the Mary Jean and Joseph R. Priest Scholarship Fund, Miami University, Murstein Alumni Center, 725 E. Chestnut St., Oxford, OH 45056.

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