



Dr. Ira Eugene Smiley

February 26, 1926 - December 23, 2018

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Dr. Ira Eugene Smiley, was born on February 26, 1926 and died in Alexandria, VA on December 23rd, 2018, from complications of Non Hodgkins Lymphoma. A Purdue Alumnus and employee, Ira lived in Lafayette, Indiana for much of his life.

Ira was born to Ernest and Iva Smiley in Carey, Ohio. Through high school the family lived in Tiffin, Ohio. At the age of 17 Smiley enlisted in the US Army and was stationed in Germany during WW2 serving as an aircraft mechanic, maintaining B-24s. He was awarded the American Theatre Ribbon and the World War II Victory Medal.

In 1950, he graduated from Heidelberg University, in Tiffin, Ohio with a B.S. degree in chemistry, and in 1953, he graduated from Miami University, with a M.S. degree in chemistry.

On November 11th, 1953, Dr. Smiley married Malinda Scouton. They lived in Painesville, Ohio where he was employed at Diamond Alkali as a chemist.

In 1968, Ira earned a PhD in analytical biochemistry at Purdue University where he continued his work. Smiley conducted research in Dr. Michael Rossmann's laboratory using X-ray crystallography, cryo-electron microscopy and molecular biology to study three dimensional structures of viruses and their component proteins. The achievement established new methodology that is now routinely used and the results obtained opened intriguing lines of research on the structure, function, and evolution of viruses.

In 1977, Ira and Malinda moved to Rochester, Massachusetts to pursue teaching and more research. For twenty years Ira continued as a contract chemist until May 2018 at Precise Packaging in Fall River, MA. In addition to day to day product testing, Dr. Smiley's knowledge of chemistry proved instrumental in the development of test methods for some of their more critical products. Ira enjoyed his profession and his colleagues at Precise Packaging.

Ira remained active up until the time of his diagnosis in May of 2018. That winter Dr. Smiley was removing snow off of his roof in January and planted twenty tomato plants in his garden. But for Ira, his work was his life; he simply loved being in the laboratory.

In late August, he moved to Washington, DC, to live with his daughter Jane Clary Loveless and son-in-law Dr. Joel Loveless (both former Lafayette residents) as he underwent treatment for the lymphoma. He loved watching the Boston Red Sox and the Patriots with his son in law Joel. He had a friend in Joel watching the games together and trying out different restaurants throughout the DC metro area.

He is survived by a sister, Joan Eldred of Ohio, and preceded in death by his beloved wife Malinda, his sister Catherine Bartlett of Ohio, and his brother Norman Smiley of Texas.

His legacy lives on through his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren:

Daughters, Jane Clary Loveless and husband Joel, Washington, DC; Jennifer Smiley, Massachusetts; grandchildren, Eric Clary living in Texas, fiancé Mary Sierra; and Alison Anderson, husband Adam, and great granddaughters Alexandra and Evangeline, living in Oregon.

Friends may call at Hippensteel Funeral Home Monday, December 31st from 9 am to 10 am for visitation, service at 10 a.m., followed by the procession to Meadow View Cemetery, 3733 Poland Hill Drive, Military Funeral Honors.

Those wishing may contribute in Dr. Ira Smiley's name to the American Cancer Society or the Wounded Warriors Project : <https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org>. Share memories and condolences online at www.hippensteelfuneralservice.com