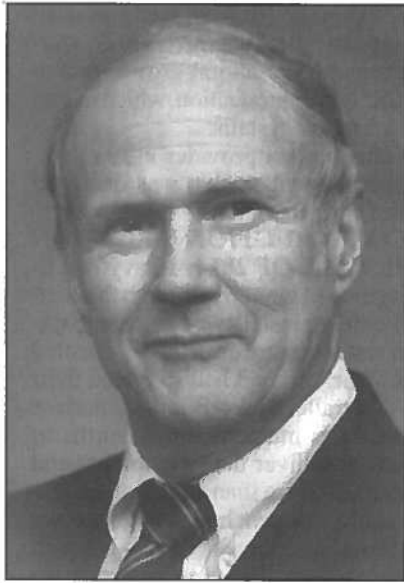


GH-R
6-28-2018 Dr. Richard J. Raridon

Dr. Richard J. Raridon, a devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather, passed away on Sunday, June 17, 2018, at the Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, after a four-week battle with pancreatitis.

Richard, known to many as Dick, was born October 25, 1931, on a farm near Newton, Iowa, the son of Jack Allison and Letha Helen Woods Raridon. He graduated from Grinnell High School in 1949, where he participated in theater and the band. He graduated from Grinnell College in 1953, majoring in mathematics and participating on the cross country team. He received an AEC Radiological Physics Fellowship to attend graduate school at Vanderbilt University, earning an MA in physics in 1955. While attending Vanderbilt, he met the former Mona Marie Herndon, who was also an AEC Fellowship recipient, and they were married in 1956. He earned a PhD in physical chemistry from Vanderbilt in 1958.



Dick was an Associate Professor of Physical Science at Memphis State University before joining Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in 1962, where he worked in the Chemistry, Computer Science and Fusion Energy Divisions before taking early retirement in 1992. He was the author or co-author of more than 100 papers in the fields of chemistry, physics and computer science. He was a member of Sigma XI, the Scientific Research Society, and listed in Who's Who of America.

He was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Tennessee Academy of Science (TAS), also serving as its president. He also served as Secretary and President of the National Association of Academies of Science (NAAS).

Dick loved his home town and Grinnell College. He started a scholarship for Grinnell High School in honor of one of his teachers that continues today as part of the Ahrens Foundation. Dick also served in various roles supporting the college over the years. Most recently, in 2011 he served as Co-Class Fund Director for the Class of 1953. He also joined the Alumni Council in 2013, serving at various times on its Stewardship Committee, Alumni Awards Committee and the Communications Committee. He returned to Grinnell for virtually every high school and college reunion and most recently was in Grinnell to discuss the 75th anniversary of The Manhattan Project for a Unity Point Health-Grinnell Regional Medical Center Senior Education Program held at the Drake Community Library on May 7. He had been a volunteer at the Manhattan Project National Park site in Oak Ridge.

Dick was a life-long lover of plants, starting with a spot in his grandfather's garden at age 5. He had a large greenhouse full of tropical plants and freely shared plants and his love for them with others. He volunteered with the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society, serving several terms on the Board of Directors and as plant sale chairman for 17 years.

Dick was an avid volunteer with many other organizations, including 20 years with the American Museum of Science and Energy, where he volunteered weekly, had served on the Board of the AMSE Foundation and coordinated the summer bus tours of the Graphite Reactor and other historic Oak Ridge sites. He enjoyed trains and served as a car host/tour guide and ticket agent for the Secret City Excursion Train sponsored by the Southern Appalachia Railway Museum. He was a 50-year member of the United Church, Chapel on the Hill, where he served on the Board, sang in the choir and tended the landscaping since 1965. He loved to travel and take pictures. He and his wife traveled to all 50 states, 6 continents and over 50 countries.

He had a passion for education and life-long learning. He was a coach for a Robertsville Middle School team participating in the state-wide MathCounts competition. Until the last month of his life, he enjoyed spending evenings answering students' online questions in physics, chemistry and calculus.

Dick was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 60 years, Mona Raridon. He is survived by two daughters and their families, Susan and Clifton Lambreth and sons Matthew Richard, Daniel and Bradley Lambreth, of Brentwood, Tennessee, and Ann Raridon and her husband Rusty Dupont, and daughter Chaney Marie Dupont of Blacksburg, Virginia; a sister, Jeanene Upton, of Grand Saline, Texas; a half-sister, Sue Robison, of Newton, Iowa; brother-in-law James Gross and wife Junita of Frankfort, Kentucky; and many nieces and nephews including Thomas, Laurel and Richard Upton and Leil Gross of Texas, and Stacy Parritt and Brad Gross of Kentucky.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 pm on July 1, 2018, at the United Church, Chapel on the Hill in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to The Claude and Dolly Ahrens Foundation, 1510 Penrose, Grinnell IA 50112 or the Pastor's Discretionary Fund of the United Church, 85 Kentucky Avenue,