



Paul Abraham Agron Obituary

January 4, 1915 - March 19, 2013

Paul Abraham Agron passed away on March 19, 2013, at the Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge, TN. He was 98 years old. Paul was preceded in death by his wife of nearly 70 years—Eleanor—just one year ago. Born in New York in 1915 to Russian Jewish immigrants Jacob and Frieda Agronovich (later Agronow), Paul was brought up in Brooklyn and Queens along with his five younger siblings—two sisters and three brothers. His parents spoke Yiddish at home, and Paul ("Abe") learned to speak English by playing stickball in the street with the neighborhood children. He later earned his bachelor's degree, his master's degree in chemistry from Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute of New York University, and was awarded an honorary PhD. He married his sweetheart, Eleanor Podell, in 1942. Also during World War II, he worked on the Manhattan Project in New York and, when it ended, was the person who literally turned out the lights and closed the door—the last scientist out of the building. Not long after the birth of Paul and Eleanor's first son—Michael—the Agrons moved to Oak Ridge (1949), where Paul worked as a chemist in the lab at X-10. In Oak Ridge they had two more sons—Leslie and David. Eleanor and Paul were founding members of the Jewish Congregation in their new city. In addition to his work, Paul also enjoyed photography, reading, playing cards, attending synagogue, visiting with relatives from around the nation, and he loved to travel the world with Eleanor. Paul will be greatly missed by his three sons, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, his surviving younger siblings Ben and Ruth, his many nieces and nephews, his daughters-in-law and many, many friends. His celebration of life will be held at Martin Oak Ridge Funeral Home on Thursday, March 21 at 3:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Comments



“ Paul and his wife Eleanor were two of the dearest people we ever had the privilege to know. Compassionate Caregivers of Tennessee, Inc. cared for the both of them over the past 3 years and were very saddened lose them. Our staff has many wonderful memories of them...playing cards, watching movies, going on outings to the lake. Both Paul and Eleanor and their two sons, Michael and David were gracious, loving, caring people and we are honored to have had the time with them. They will be remembered always.

Rebecca Green-Perez. CEO - Kingston, TN - Friend - May 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Dearest Denise and family,
Not sure how this was missed. Seeing news of the passing of David's father just now:
As I look at these wonderful pictures...and memories/legacy...I am full of joy for you, even in the sadness of losing this VIP in your lives. When seeing some pics awhile back...do you remember Denise...I was so touched and blessed by David's Mom and Dad.
When one is blessed to be part of a good family, as each of you have been...it carries you, grounds you, fills you up with the knowledge of the blessings you have received in the dedication and love of parents for their offspring...as well as the obedience they followed toward God in the doing. You know that I know this place... and it is a place; a place of strength to march on from and continue in the example set. You are all so clearly on this path.
The loss of Papa on this earth will be replaced with the warmth of reunion when we see Jesus. Until then our hearts will go on singing. Amen?
Our love and prayers to the four of you and to the Agron Family.

With our sincere and deep affection,
Francene and Scott Ferard and family

Francene Leisenring Ferard - Riverside, CA - Friend of family - April 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Pauls' passing....He was such a joy, and I loved learning out all about him....And loved playing cards with him as well.....He will be in my thoughts and for-ever in my heart.....I pray for him and his entire family.....May the Lord be with you and hold you in the palm of his hand.....

Cheryl LeMarr - Clinton, TN - occasional care-giver - March 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ As a childhood friend of Benjy, I would like to pass on my best wishes and sympathies to the family for your loss. Parents are the start and center of everything in our family. Their loss, at any age, has a profound impact on our lives. Remember and embrace all of the good times!

Walt Fuller

Walter Fuller - Hillsborough, NJ - Friend of Benjamin - March 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Paul and I worked together on the crystal structures of calcium chloride dihydrate and strontium chloride dihydrate. Working in the Chemistry Division at ORNL we used neutron diffraction to locate the hydrogen atoms. Paul was very good with his hands, and he took care of mounting the crystals and protecting them from moisture. We were a good team.

William R. Busing - Oak Ridge, TN - Colleague - March 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM