

William Hickam

William M. Hickam, 72, died April 17, at West Penn Hospital.

Dr. Hickam, a native of Loudoun County, had lived in Churchill since 1948.

A graduate of Randolph-Macon and Virginia Polytechnic Institute, he started his professional career at Westinghouse in Pittsburgh in 1942.

During his 42 years with Westinghouse Research Laboratories, he received numerous awards and honors. His research resulted in 100 publications, 32 U.S. Patents, 10 Westinghouse products, and three corporate services. He rose to the rank of consultant, the highest technical rank in Westinghouse, and received the highest Westinghouse employee award, the Order of Merit.

A major contribution was his application of oxygen sensors to combustion control, which was the basis for the formation of the Westinghouse Combustion Control Division located in Orville, Ohio.

In 1950, he was one of the original board members of the Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy. Over the years, he held many positions in this organization and recently completed a written documentation of its history.

He was an elder in the Beulah Presbyterian Church and was active in the Blackridge Civic Association and Kiwanis.

In 1980, he received an honorary Doctor of Science Degree from Randolph-Macon College.

After retiring from Westinghouse in 1984, he wrote and published his first book, "Beyond the Blue Ridge." In this autobiography, he celebrates a firm commitment to and love for others, a sense of self and a joy in simply being alive.

He is survived by his wife, Marie Kadavy Hickam; three daughters, Susan Castellana of Sterling, Virginia Linda Trumbull of Mount Lebanon, Pa., and Diane Ellis of Cleveland, Ohio; a sister, Inus Fletcher of Bristol; and seven grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Catoctin Presbyterian Church, Waterford, Va., 22190, or the American Cancer Society.

Arrangements were by the Findlay C. Wylie Funeral Home, Pa.