



Prof. Lawrence F. Markus

October 13, 1922 - January 18, 2020

Markus, Lawrence Age 97, of Minneapolis, passed away peacefully on January 18, 2020. He was born in 1922 in Hibbing, MN. Shortly thereafter his family moved to Minneapolis, and later to the Chicago area. At age 16 he entered the University of Chicago receiving his B.S. degree in two years, then his M.S., and joined the University of Chicago faculty at age 19. During WWII he worked on the Manhattan Project while the atomic bomb was being developed. He later accepted a commission in the U.S. Navy and served as Chief Meteorological Officer aboard a weather frigate in the North Atlantic. After the war he went to Harvard, completing his Ph.D. in Mathematics, following a Fulbright Fellowship in Paris where he married his wife, Lois. After being on the faculties of Harvard, Yale, and Princeton, Larry joined the University of Minnesota's School of Mathematics in 1957, becoming one of eight Regents Professors in 1980 (its highest academic honor). With a lively undergraduate classroom style, he was granted the University Distinguished Teacher Award in 1968. Despite his casual exterior he was very willing to listen to students and suggest other mathematical approaches to problems confronting them. Professor Markus was a prolific researcher, writing the classic treatise "Foundations of Optimal Control Theory" (with E.B. Lee) while on a Guggenheim Fellowship. In 1963 Larry founded the Center for Control Science at the Institute of Technology at the University of Minnesota, and subsequently founded and directed a corresponding Centre for Control Theory at the University of Warwick, England. For the next twenty-five years Larry

alternated between these two universities, always accompanied by Lois. He gave lectures in Japan, China, Iran, and at hundreds of colloquia and conferences in America and Europe. Of particular note was his invited discourse before the British Royal Institution in London. One of the highlights of his later career was being elected an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. In later years he began to write a book drawing on his scholarly knowledge of physics and astronomy as well as mathematics, which took a new approach to explaining basic mathematical principles. Larry was known for his witty stories and conversation. He had an astonishing talent for distinguishing regional accents and enjoyed working out puns to add to his repertoire. Perhaps his proudest achievements were his seven table tennis championships, including Minnesota State Champion in 1965. A lifelong hobby, Larry played his last game of table tennis in 2008, at age 86. He is survived by wife Lois, daughter Sylvia, brothers Judge Richard Markus & theater director Tom Markus. He was predeceased by son Andrew, a noted East Asian scholar and linguist. Memorial Service 10:30am Friday March 6th at Jones- Harrison Residence, 3700 Cedar Lake Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55416. washburn-mcreavy.com Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 6. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Jones Harrison Residence
3700 Cedar Lake Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55416