

Tribute to Deceased Alumni

Maurice F. Murphy

Frank Koubek prepared a tribute to Maurice Murphy. Frank wrote WOLAA: "Attached is an obituary I have prepared for Maurice F. Murphy based on information from his family, several WOL associates and my own recollection. Maurice was at NOL for some 14 years before moving to NAVSEA. On retirement, he returned to WOL as a re-employed consultant to R33. I knew Maurice ('Murph') personally from 1956 until this past Christmas (our last communication). As I mentioned in my article, he was a warm and kind 'prince of a man.'"

Maurice F. Murphy----1919-2011

Maurice F. Murphy, a former employee of NOL and later NSWC died on 9 February 2011 at the Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, MD, after a short illness. He was 91 years of age. Maurice, better known as "Murph" to his friends at WOL was a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and a graduate of Marquette University. In 1950, he became a resident of the Washington, D.C. area when he joined the Atlantic Research Corporation as a chemist doing high energy propellants R&D. In 1954, Murph moved to NOL, doing R&D on pyrotechnic fuzes and propellants in what was the Chemistry and Explosives Department. In 1968, Murph moved to the Naval Sea Systems Command where he headed up R&D in pyrotechnics and advanced thermal systems for torpedo propulsion. He retired in the early 1980's, and then returned to WOL joining the Electrochemistry Branch (R33) in the Materials Division (R30) as a reemployed annuitant/consultant. He retired for good in the early 1990's shortly before the closing of the White Oak Laboratory. Murph held several patents on pyrotechnic fuzes and high energy propellants. He was a member of the American Chemical society, the American Electrochemical Society, and the Canadian Club of Washington (His wife, Marthe, is a native of Montreal, Canada.). Maurice is survived by his wife, Marthe Chausse' Murphy; son John C. Murphy, daughter, Anne M. Ricciardi, son-in-law Nicholas Ricciardi; and grandchildren, Michael and Christine Ricciardi. All reside in Beltsville, MD. He is also survived by his brothers-in-law, Fr. Jean Chausse', C.S.V. and Pierre Chausse' of Montreal, Canada. Frank Koubek says, "I made Murph's acquaintance when I joined NOL in 1956, and this turned out to be a life-long friendship with Murph until his death. He was a warm, thoughtful man who echoed with Will Roger's famous statement that 'He never met a man he did not like!!' Murph's daughter said that her Dad's friendships meant the world to him and that he spent all his time reading and collecting articles and sending this information on to his friends!! We shall all miss him very much. He was indeed a Prince of a Man!!