# Manuel (Mike) Esayian

December 12, 1928 - February 17, 2017

Manuel (Mike) Esayian, passed away peacefully in Naples, Florida on Friday, February 17, 2017. He was 88. Born December 12, 1928, in Cleveland, Ohio, Mike was a warm, funny, and compassionate man. He had a gift of friendship that transcended throughout his life.

Raised in Cleveland, he received his undergraduate, master's and doctorate degrees from Case Western Reserve University and was awarded a Ph.D. in organic polymer chemistry in 1960. Dr. Esayian, a resident of Wilmington, Delaware for 48 years, was a chemist. He was a Development Manager for TEFLON resins and films at the DuPont Company's plastics and electronic departments.

Between 1953 and 1960, he worked as a research chemist for the Sherwin Williams and B.F. Goodrich companies and as a cryogenics engineer with the Atomic Energy Commission in the Marshall Islands Pacific Proving Grounds.

He joined DuPont in 1960 as a research chemist at the Experimental Station where he worked on new polymeric materials. He later worked as a technical representative at Chestnut Run and as a field marketing representative in the TEFLON fluoropolymers group. He later helped introduce NAFION membranes to the U.S. and International chloralkali industries.

After retiring from DuPont, he formed a consulting business serving the high performance films and fuel cell technology markets. During this time, he worked closely with W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc. and the University of South Carolina where he was Deputy Director of the Fuel Cell Research Group in the Department of Chemical Engineering.

Mike served in the Ohio National Guard (1945-46) and the United States Marine Corps (1946-48, 1950-51). He has been a member of the American Chemical Society, Society of Plastics Engineers, the Electrochemical Society, Sigma Xi, honorary scientific research society and the Plastics Pioneers of America.

He served for four years as a member of the Wilmington Planning Commission and was past president of the Westwood Manor and Westmorland Civic Associations. As a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, he served on the Vestry and as a Communion Assistant. Later, he became a member of Christ Church Christiana Hundred where he served as a Communion Assistant Pastoral Careperson.

In Delaware he was a member of the Wilmington Country Club, DuPont Country Club and the Lincoln Club of Delaware as well as a member of Spring Run Golf Club in Bonita Springs, Florida. Mike enjoyed golf, travel, historical biographies and his beloved Cleveland Indians and Cleveland Browns. Duplicate Bridge was a later passion as he became a sanctioned club director for the American Contract Bridge League.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Genevieve (Genny); and beloved children, Gary and daughter-in-law Claire Bienen of New York City; Deborah of Bonita Springs, Florida; a grandson, Nicholas Bienen-Esayian of Evanston, Illinois and a granddaughter, Emmie Elizabeth Esayian, of Bonita Springs, Florida and a brother Samuel of Bellevue, Washington.

A memorial service celebrating Mike’s life will be held on March 25, 2017 at 11:00am at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Bonita Springs, Florida.

Burial will be private in Arlington National Cemetery.

Given the importance Mike placed on education, in lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Case Western Reserve University Chemistry Department at giving.case.edu/chemistry.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

# Cemetery Details

### Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA 22211
http://arlingtoncemetery.mil

# Previous Events

### Memorial Service

MAR **25**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church
9801 Bonita Beach Road
Bonita Springs, FL

# Tribute Wall

*Manuel (Mike) Esayian*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM

BM

*March 9, 2017*

*Dear Genny,*

*We were greatly saddened upon learning of Mike's passing. He was a lovely gentleman*
*with a wonderful smile on his face, a devoted husband and father.*

*We were very fond of Mike. We've missed seeing you these past years and hope you*
*have enjoyed your life in Florida.*

*We are thinking of you and your family at this sad and difficult time.*

*Fondly,*

*Barbara and Dick Morgan*

**Barbara and Dick Morgan** - March 09, 2017 at 11:16 AM

KQ

*Dear Genny,*

*I am so sorry to hear about Mike and for your loss. While I don't specifically*
*remember your husband, I do remember the fun we had in Countryside Garden Club and at the Philadelphia Flower Show. I hope you have lots of comfort and support where you are in Florida.*

*Sincerely,*

*Kris Qualls*

**Kristine Qualls** - March 05, 2017 at 10:31 AM

MM

*Dear Genny, We are sorry to hear about Mike. We didn't realize he had passed when we saw you on Sunday. Our condolences would have been said to you personally. You know he is in a much better place. Our regards and sympathy to you and your family.*
*Sincerely, Mary & Gregg Mullins*

**Mary Mullins** - March 03, 2017 at 10:35 AM

KF

*Dear Genny, It is with great sadness that Peter and I read today of Mike's passing. I fondly remember the many good times that we had together with you and Mike in Wilmington. Mike was a delightful person, and such fun to be with. I know you will greatly miss him. I am not sure that I have your correct address, so am writing something here. Please be aware of my affection for both of you, and accept my sincere condolence on your loss. I hope that you are well. All the best. Karen & Peter Flint*

**Karen Flint** - February 26, 2017 at 06:13 PM

DE

*What a lovely note, Karen. The Esayian family reflects on many great times with you an Peter, and this remembrance means so much to us - thank you for writing!*

**Deborah Esayian** - March 01, 2017 at 08:40 PM

DL

*Initially as a friend of Gary and then the family, I had many occasions to visit the Esayian residences in Wilmington. You were always made to feel welcome. When I was young "Mr. Esayian" always showed interest in what you were doing and he did it with a smile and usually a neat little story about you, Gary, or Debbie or their other friends or grandma who was staying with them at the time.*

*As I grew up, although unfortunately the visits became less frequent, "Mike" didn't change. Always positive, showing sincere interest, up on what's going on and usually a couple of great stories connecting family, travels, current events and also maybe mixing in childhood memories, all of which he would make entertaining. Looking back as a busy adult, and thinking about at all the work it must have taken to achieve all the professional accolades it is easy to imagine that he could have gotten to busy to stay that involved with the family, let alone friends of the family, and do it with so much grace, class and...well fun. Thank you for it all "Mr. E."*

**Dan L.** - February 25, 2017 at 11:08 AM

DE

*Dan, what an amazing tribute to Dad - he loved you very much and so many of our family memories include you. Thank you for sharing these thoughts - they mean a lot! Also, we so appreciate the fruit basket....*

**Deborah Esayian** - February 26, 2017 at 09:31 PM

NE

*Dear Genny, Gary & Debbie--We were truly saddened to read of Mike's passing. He was such a likable, friendly guy to all whom he encountered. I especially recall your wonderful work with and for OperaDelaware, Genny. The company is still thriving due in large part to your tremendous energy and fund-raising talents for the Guild. Can you believe that our Granddaughter (Karen's daughter Kate) has been singing in the chorus for ODE for several years now and she loves the experience. She got her Master's in Vocal Performance at UDE last year. We send all of you our love and God's blessings.*

*Nancy & Phil Ebert*

**Nancy Ebert** - February 27, 2017 at 07:40 PM

DE

*Nancy and Phil - We thank you very much for this remembrance - it means a lot, and we were so fortunate to share so many wonderful experiences with the two of you and your beautiful children. It's nice to know that all the hard work on OperaDelaware fundraising has touched another generation!*

**Deborah Esayian** - March 01, 2017 at 08:42 PM