

Walter F. Wakefield

Needmore, 85

Walter F. "Fred" Wakefield, 85, Needmore, Pa., died Thursday, April 25, 2013, at Holy Spirit Hospital, Camp Hill, Pa.

He was born in Kansas City, Miss., March 7, 1928, the son of the late William Harry and Hazel (Stoddard) Wakefield. He was the husband of Stella S. (Swope) Wakefield, whom he married on September 24, 1949.

He was educated at Eastern High School in Washington, D.C., graduated from George Washington University in 1951 with a B.S. in electrical engineering and served in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific Theatre from 1945 to 1948.

He worked for the General Electric Co. for 35 years starting in 1951 in Syracuse, N.Y. He was part of the group working on the first computer guidance system for the Air Force. In 1959 he was transferred to Pittsfield, Mass., where he was manager of the group that developed the guidance systems for the Polaris and Poseidon missile systems. By the end of his 35-year General Electric career, he had been promoted to General Electric headquarters in Bridgeport, Conn., serving as a general computer consultant and troubleshooting for the company as a whole. He also served as adjunct professor at Union College in Albany, N.Y.

He retired from General Electric in 1986 and worked as a consultant for the In-

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stitute for Defense Analysis where he retired in 2005. Locally, he also was partners with Lyle Mellott in McConnellsborg Motor and Implement.

He was active in Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, the South Congregational Church in Pittsfield, Mass., and also was a member of Sideling Hill Christian Church, Needmore. He enjoyed singing tenor in a barbershop quartet and with a chorus "The Berkshire Hillsman."

After his final retirement, he enjoyed traveling with his wife, attending his grandchildren's activities, working on his house and his farm.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by sons: Dennis Alan Wakefield of Pittsburgh; Robert Charles Wakefield of Mechanicsburg; Richard Jeffery (husband of Janet) Wakefield of North Easton, Mass.; Mark Steven (husband of Linda) Wakefield of Franklin, Mass.; a daughter, Lisa Ann (wife of Ed) Wenschhof of Needmore; a daughter-in-law, Jeanne Singer of Waynesboro; grandchildren: Matthew Paul (husband of Robin), Patrick William (husband of Meghan), Rachel, Olivia, Benjamin, Emily, Sara, Rebecca, Edward, Jared and Spencer; and great-grandchildren: Elliot, Jasper, Katie and Luke.

He was preceded in death by a son, William Russel Wakefield; and brothers: Robert, John and James Wakefield.

Funeral services were held at Sideling Hill Christian Church, Needmore, at 11 a.m., on Monday, April 29, 2013. Pastor William Swope officiated. Interment was at Sideling Hill Christian Cemetery, Needmore.

Howard L. Sipes Funeral Home Inc., McConnellsborg, was in charge of arrangements.

Military services were conducted by Fulton Honor Guard.

Memorial donations may be made to Sideling Hill Christian Church Building Fund, in care of Betty Ramsey, 2153 Camp Ridge Road, Harrisonville, PA 17228.

Arrangements were made by the Howard L. Sipes Funeral Home, Inc., McConnellsborg.

Online condolences at www.howardlsipes.com.