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**Pierce Burton Day(1924 - 2016)**

Day, Pierce Burton

Raleigh, NC: (1924 - 2016). Pierce B. Day passed away peacefully on December 29, 2016 at age 92 in Raleigh, NC. He will be joining his wife Sarah Jean (Davis) Day who passed in 2012 together and in love for 68 years. He will be lovingly remembered by his four children, Jan (Whidbey Island, WA), Robert & Leslie Day (Denton, Texas), Margaret (Day) Everette (Raleigh, NC) & Sarah (Day) Stiegler (Raleigh, NC), nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Pierce was born in Shanghai, China on October 25th, 1924 to Presbyterian missionaries and grew up in Lushan and Shanghai. He received his early education in boarding schools. First at the Kuling American School in central China and later at the Shanghai American School. He returned to the U.S. in 1938, at age 13, to attend Peddie School in New Jersey.

He was awarded the Genesee Prize Scholarship at the University of Rochester in the fall of 1942. After serving in the Air Force, he returned to the U of R's Institute of Optics, graduating with a B.S. degree in 1948. He worked for NACA, (NASA's predecessor) until 1950 when he completed his Master's in Optics from the U of R and Eastman Kodak.

Pierce was considered by some to be the father of the "K" optical system at Eastman Kodak — a top-secret reconnaissance program providing "Eyes in the Sky" for the NRO and CIA. During his career at Kodak, he was a contributing inventor on ten U.S. patents, with the corresponding foreign patents that also issued.

In 2014, he published "Career in Optics: A Memoir that Spans 36 Years (1950-1986) of Optics History at Kodak."

There will be a family memorial service in Stoddardsville, Pennsylvania where he will be buried next to his family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford, NY or the Center for Optics Department at the University of Rochester.

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