

## **OBITUARY - ABRAHAM DER KRIKORIAN**



Abraham D. Krikorian of Belle Terre, New York passed away unexpectedly on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. He was Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry and Cell Biology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Abraham was a kind and loving soul who expressed his opinions and feelings very directly, but with civility and was greatly respected. He was the youngest of six exceedingly close children (3 girls and 3 boys) with older sisters Alice, Anna and Mary still with us. Brothers Charlie and Peter are deceased.

Abe's colleagues would describe him as industrious and energetic. He maintained a large laboratory and enjoyed consistent funding largely through NASA, and together with Thora Halstead was a prime mover in 1984 in the establishment of the American Society for Gravitational and Space Biology (ASGSB) - name now modified to *Research* rather than *Biology*, ASGSR.

Abe had a distinguished scientific career covering a diverse range of topics and subjects. He participated with his Ph.D. mentor from Cornell, F.C. Steward, in the 1975 joint Soviet-USA Biological Satellite Cosmos 782 mission by flying totipotent cells of carrot capable of developing into full grown somatic embryos. This was 'a first,' and over the years was followed by many experiments with aseptically cultured higher plants and plantlets in space.

Abe received numerous awards and held offices in various Societies. He specialized in cell and tissue culture for cloning purposes and was able to integrate that aspect of the research into spaceflight experiments and in the cultivation of various tropical plantation crops like banana, plantain, African oil palm, rubber etc. Daylily and its hybrids were also studied in-depth and served as "a subject" for research in space at low gravity.

Abe met the love of his life, Eugene Lynn Taylor in 1966 and together they traveled the world, including parts of Asia and Indonesia numerous times, the Amazon River and Iguazu Falls in South America, the sources of the Nile River in Africa, Ripon Falls in Uganda, Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe/Zambia, the confluence of the White and Blue Niles in the Sudan, the Mekong River etc. They were formally, legally married in the State of New York as soon as it became legally and fully possible (2011), even though they had been married in New Paltz, NY in 2004, in a ceremony unsanctioned by the State.

They drove across the USA 7 times very often connected with documenting the Armenian Genocide especially as it involved the collection of photographs and imagery, and their large collection of "Armeniana" material has been donated by to NAASR (National Association for Armenian Studies and Research) in Belmont, MA.

Abe was diagnosed with a heart condition and a deteriorated aortic valve that required open heart surgery after which he suffered complications and died. He will be missed by surviving family members and many colleagues and friends around the world. There will be no funeral or interment ceremonies. Ashes will be distributed at a later date.