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Myong-ku Ahn

Myong-ku Ahn, 79, died Oct. 15, 2016 in Midland. Myong was born June 30, 1937 in Seoul, Korea. He lost both of his parents, HoJun and SookKyung (Lee) Ahn, to the Korean War in 1950 and was raised by his older siblings and a kind uncle and aunt. After graduating from Kyunggi High School in Seoul and completing his mandatory military obligations in the Korean Air Force, he came to the United States in 1960 to attend Williams College on an academic scholarship. He received a BA in chemistry from Williams in 1963, then completed his PhD in physical chemistry at Yale University in 1968. That same year, Myong married MiRyung Choi in Chapel Hill, NC. After completing a post-doctoral fellowship at UCLA, he became a professor of chemistry in 1970 at Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Ind., where he remained until his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 2003. Myong was respected by his colleagues and graduate students as an outstanding scientist and a devoted educator. A rigorous and versatile researcher, he was known for clever experiments and his knack for repairing instruments. He was awarded the University's Research Creativity Award in 1996. He enjoyed collaborations with friends at NASA and Argonne National Labs and sabbatical assignments that took his family to Australia, Chicago, Cleveland and Korea. After retirement, Myong and MiRyung moved in 2004 to Midland, where they enjoyed time with their grandchildren and traveling.

A man of principle, Myong is fondly remembered by family and friends as a modest, kind and generous family man who enjoyed applying his unique touch to build gadgets and fix things at home. Although Myong's astute mind and skilled hands were diminished by the effects of Alzheimer's Disease in his later years, he retained his gentle disposition and wit, along with a healthy appetite and a strong voice developed by years of lecturing. His greatest joy in these later years came from admitting Jesus into his life in 1999 and sharing in this fellowship with his family and friends. Until late August when he was moved to assisted living, Myong and MiRyung's home was frequently graced by the sound of their mutual laughter that reflected this joy.

Myong is survived by his wife, MiRyung Ahn; son, Dongchan (Debra) Ahn of Midland; grandchildren, Abigail and Jacob Ahn; brother, Suk-koo (ChiSook) Ahn of Sydney, Australia; sister, Myungja (Yoongki Kim) Ahn of Seoul, S. Korea; and many special nieces, nephews and in-laws. He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters and a brother.

Funeral services for Myong-ku are scheduled for 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 21, 2016 at Ware-Smith-Woolever Funeral Home in Midland, with visitation hours from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 20 and 10-11 a.m., Oct 21. Mr. Greg Harger and Ms. Jean Bergquist will officiate the service. With deep appreciation, the family wishes not to receive memorials. Those wishing to support Alzheimer research are asked to consider Cure Alzheimer's Fund (www.curealz.org). The family would like to thank Mr. Daniel Stevens and the dedicated staff at Plainview Assisted Living Memory Care Unit for their genuine care.

Funeral Home

Ware-Smith-Woolever Funeral Home - Midland
1200 W. Wheeler St Midland, MI 48640
(989) 631-2292

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