



Frank J. Perzak

July 27, 1932 - December 30, 2024

On December 30, 2024, Frank J. Perzak, age 92, of Pleasant Hills, passed away. Beloved husband of 54 years to the late Sally J. (Skinkle) Perzak; son of the late Frank and Mary (Kusmirak) Perzak; brother of the late Norma (Victor) Szalajda; survived by two nephews, Frank (Mara) and Jonathan Szalajda, and Richard Zagrocki.

Dr. Perzak was raised, educated, and worked in Pittsburgh all his life, except for his service in the Army. He held an undergraduate degree in chemistry from Carnegie Mellon, and a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh. He was employed as an occupational safety and health, research chemist, by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, for over 40 years. He was an expert in Fires and Explosives research and often fondly recalled his work experiences, including his research with ammonium nitrate, the fire behavior of mine materials, and fire gallery studies in mines. Frank was recognized upon his retirement with the Department of the Interior Superior Service award in acknowledgement of his career's accomplishments.

Frank had a love of travel and had wonderful memories of trips with his beloved wife Sally. They traveled extensively across the United States, and internationally to Europe and Australia. A favorite memory of his was seeing the wildflowers of Yankee Boy Basin in Colorado. He had a love of water, and his family will long remember adventures shared boating on Pittsburgh's

rivers.

There will be no services. Arrangements by GRIFFITH FUNERAL HOME, INC., (412) 655-4600. Donations in Frank's memory may be made to the Army Historical Foundation, <https://armyhistory.org/>. Condolences may be offered for the family at www.GriffithFH.com

Tribute Wall

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“ My Uncle Frank is the person who most literally sparked my interest in science and technology. As a very small kid , maybe 5 years old, I was visiting my Uncle Frank and Aunt Sally at their house. Their wool carpet presented some kind of fun for me to run around their living room. All the friction with the rug generated enough static electricity on me to discharge on their fireplace grate. That spark with some vague description of electrons is what germinated into a life time interest in science and fun careers down the road. Thank you ,Uncle. You were an amazing resource for high school and Pitt math and science courses too. I am sorry we didn't get to spend more quality time down the road. I am forever grateful to you for everything. I hope we catch up on things one day, and maybe you have true confirmation of ammonium nitrate critical diameter, but I am sure your research on it was quite correct.

Frank Szalajda - February 15, 2025 at 02:41 PM

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“ Rest in peace Frank. We worked many years together at PRL. A lot of memories of the different projects we worked on.

Ken Mura - January 06, 2025 at 11:28 PM