

NORMAN WARNOCK LOEFFLER



Norman Warnock Loeffler passed away in the early morning hours of Wednesday, January 31, in Anchorage, Alaska. He was 89 years old.

The Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania native grew up in the Mount Lebanon area where he graduated from Dormont High School in 1952. There Loeffler was a well-rounded student athlete. He participated in the varieties performing arts club and, not surprisingly, excelled

in numerous sports including football, basketball, and track where his father, Fred Loeffler, led football teams at Dormont High to four unbeaten seasons in Mon Valley, two Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League titles, and two co-championships.

A lifelong Pittsburgh Steelers fan, Loeffler earned a football scholarship to Allegheny College after high school. His plans to attend Allegheny were derailed when he had an accident on his Indian Scout motorcycle the summer after his senior year. Instead, he stayed local and headed to the University of Pittsburgh where he obtained an engineering degree.

Loeffler embarked on his engineering career with the Federal Highway Administration in the 1950s in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. As a young professional he also delighted in flying his small twin-engine plane around the state.

In Oklahoma City Loeffler met his wife, Barbara. The two married on June 11, 1961, and soon after started a family.

In the early 1970s he and his family settled in Alexandria, Virginia where Loeffler moved up the ranks of the federal government. He retired from the FHWA in the early 90s after a long and storied career managing the numerous miles of highway construction in the burgeoning road system of a growing Metropolitan D.C. His territory included the Southern region where he managed highway construction projects from the East Coast to the Mississippi River and down to the Virgin Islands. Along the way he also served on a structural evaluation team that traveled to Egypt and Jordan under the administration's auspices.

An avid traveler, he weaved overseas tours and stations off of the contiguous 48 states into his career. He and his family spent four years in San Juan, Puerto Rico where Loeffler enjoyed snorkeling and scuba diving and took his family on houseboating holidays through the Caribbean. In Puerto Rico he managed the construction of a highway through El Yunque Rain Forest. Loeffler's experience in challenging conditions opened the door for work abroad as a senior-level highway administrator in a position with USAID in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. In Cambodia he oversaw the construction of a critical main artery from the capital of Cambodia to Kompong Song on the coast, all the while thwarting attacks from the Khmer Rouge to stop the road's construction. While stationed in Cambodia he and his wife had adventures in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Cairns, Australia, and visited the Great Wall in China.

Loeffler was born on May 19, 1934 to Fred W. Loeffler and Elizabeth I. Loeffler.

He is survived by his children Andrew M. Loeffler of Anchorage, Susan B. Loeffler-Bell of Mukwonago, Wisconsin, and Amy L. Loeffler of Fairbanks; six grandchildren, Harold M. Loeffler-Bell, Samuel R. Loeffler-Bell, Joseph J. Loeffler-Bell, Caitlin E. Loeffler, Carolyn K. Loeffler; Mark A. Loeffler; and great-grandchild Jasper Richard Watkins Loeffler-Bell. He was preceded in death by his wife Barbara Audrey Mason Loeffler in 2015.

Loeffler and his wife's ashes will be interred in the columbarium wall at the end of March in Anchorage Memorial Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Loeffler's name can be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation.

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