

# ARTHUR JAMES ACTON



Arthur James Acton, 82, of Zelenople, passed away peacefully at his home on August 15, 2024. He left the world as he lived his life, with courage, dignity and without fanfare.

A son of Harry Lyle and Bernice Jean Acton, he was born in Sterling, IL where he lived for four years until his father's tragic death at age 40. His mother then moved their family to Pittsburgh where Art spent his formative years. He was a graduate of North Hills High School, the College of Wooster and the University of Michigan where he obtained his doctoral degree. Art then began his academic career with his first teaching job at Marietta College in 1967. Art was always interested in a challenge, and several years later began a gradual transition into college administration with positions as Registrar and Assistant Dean at Marietta. He continued his career at Waynesburg University, Chatham University, Ohio Northern University and Clarion (now PennWest) University. His lifelong love of learning and commitment to academic success for his students made him a strong supporter of higher education.

Arthur lived a full and rewarding life. He will be remembered for his love of travel, reading (particularly historical and naval novels), dad jokes, a good cup of tea, a strong gin and tonic, convertibles, big band and guitar music and loud bagpipes. He was to the end a faithful Pirate and Steeler fan. He had a generous spirit, was always willing to share his time and many talents and supported many political and social justice causes.

Art was the last surviving member of his immediate family and was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Peter; and sister, Bonnie. He is survived by his loving wife, Mary Ann; and his beloved children, Audrey (Damaro) Lewis, Anne (Luke) Wilmoth and Catherine Acton; and his noisy but adorable grandchildren, Ella, Maggie and Henry. He is also survived by many nieces and their families.

The family asks that any memorial contributions be made to Marietta College, to PennWest to the Arthur J. Acton scholarship fund or to the American Cancer Assn.

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