



Mr. Leif Erik Maseng

August 17, 1924 - July 1, 2021

Leif Erik Maseng of Columbia passed away peacefully on Thursday afternoon, July 1, 2021, a month shy of his 97th birthday.

Leif was a registered professional engineer and a pioneer in designing and building America's interstate highway system, as well as transportation systems around the world. The loving husband of the late Betty Maseng and father of three daughters, he was devoted to his family and an example to them of courage, strength, honor and love. He was born in Chicago, Illinois on August 17, 1924 to Stella Nissen Maseng and Trygve Maseng, Scandinavian immigrants. He graduated from Arlington Heights High School where he played both football and basketball. Leif found great meaning in being an Eagle Scout, and it filled him with pride and joy to pin the Eagle Scout badge on his grandson, David Maseng Will. He often attended the Eagle Scout ceremonies of the children and grandchildren of friends.

He began his engineering training by attending the University of Illinois. During the Second World War he volunteered for service as a paratrooper for the 82nd Airborne Division, and participated in major engagements from "D" Day — parachuting behind the lines the night before the assault — to the Battle of the Bulge, where he was wounded. After six months of hospitalization in Scotland, he returned to the United States and graduated from the Corps of Engineer Officers Candidate School. Returning to the University after the war, he married Betty Hagen in December 1948.

After a year of employment in his father's electrical engineering firm in Chicago, he worked as an electrical designer of machinery controls for Kraft Tools Company. Later he was employed by Hoyolet and Erdal, where he finally had his first opportunity to practice in his chosen profession, civil and highway engineering. Moving on to the consulting firm of C.D. Fuller Engineers in Lexington, Kentucky, he participated in the design and construction supervision of the Kentucky Interstate Highway network, including segments of I-64, I-71 and I-75. Other major road projects during this period included parts of the Mountain Parkway in East Kentucky and the Western Kentucky Parkway.

During his work on the Mountain Parkway, his firm was a member of the consulting engineering team under the overall direction of Wilber Smith and Associates. In 1964 he joined that firm and moved his family to the company's head offices in Columbia, SC. During this period he was responsible for planning and design of segments of I-20 in Aiken County, prior to accepting a four-year assignment as chief engineer and manager of the Australian office of the firm in Melbourne. During the period he directed the design of the first highway to be built in the State of Victoria, the Mulgrave Bypass. A variety of other transportation planning and design projects were completed during this period, including in Adelaide, Brisbane and Canberra, as well as in Auckland, New Zealand.

Returning to South Carolina for continuing assignments with the firm, he participated in numerous transportation planning projects in the central and southeastern US, as well as in Greece, Ireland and Nicaragua.

Current and past professional association memberships include the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers and the South Carolina Society of Engineers.

Leif was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Columbia and a member of the Men's Sunday School Class. He served his church as a Chairman of the Board of Deacons, as a ruling elder and later received the honor of Elder Emeritus for his many faithful years of service. He was an active board member of the Golden K Kiwanis, and served as its president. He was a member of the Summit Club, the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, and Columbia Green. He also was a member of the University Associates and the Cooper Society of the University of South Carolina, and was certified as a Master Gardener by Clemson University. Leif was a loyal University of South Carolina Gamecock fan and was a member of the The Gamecock Club, Touchdown Club and the Tip Off Club.

Surviving are his daughters Nancy Elise Maseng of Columbia; Mari Maseng Will (George) of Chevy Chase, MD; Lisa Ann Maseng (Richard White) of Columbia; granddaughter Parke Espy Jones (Brandon) of Columbia; grandson David Maseng Will of New York; nine step-granddaughters and step-grandsons, including Nick, Max and Joy White of Columbia; great-grandson Erik Jones and seven step-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00am on Thursday, July 8, in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church with visitation to follow in Jackson Hall. Funeral arrangements are being coordinated by Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel.

Events

JUL Memorial Service 11:00AM

8

First Presbyterian Church

1324 Marion St, Columbia, SC, US, 29201

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Shives Funeral Home - July 06 at 03:52 PM



“ Leif & Betty were such fine people, capable individuals who loved the Lord Jesus & His church & served well as called to serve. They were excellent examples in how they prioritized their family. My entire family was blessed to have known them both. A kind & thoughtful gentleman who loved his family, Leif made a difference in this world. May God bless you all as you reflect on the blessing they were in your life.

Kathy Folks - July 21 at 05:47 PM



“ Mr. Leif Maseng came to live at Still Hopes about the same time as we began construction of a major apartment building project. He and I had several conversations about the project, and the General Contractor supplied Leif with a set of the building's blueprints so he could follow along with the project's progress. Leif was an amazing and wonderful man who I really enjoyed spending time with. I know that his family will miss him, and his Still Hopes family will be praying for you all, while we also grieve along with you. Blessings, Danny Sanford

Danny Sanford - July 05 at 01:44 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Leif Erik Maseng.



July 04 at 11:43 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Leif Erik Maseng.



July 04 at 10:25 AM



“ My heartfelt sorrow for the Maseng Family during this most difficult time. I was so very sorry to learn of Leif's passing. He was an incredible man who served his nation with courage and honor. I will always admire his modesty, abiding faith and quiet patriotism . He will be deeply missed, but he will never be forgotten by all of us blessed to have known him and he will remain in the hearts of all those his life touched over his long and meaningful lifetime---well done good and faithful servant! May God hold you all close now and always, Bob Liming

Robert G Liming - July 02 at 04:40 PM



“ Dear Nancy, Mari, and Lisa,
Your peerless father was a stand out in every way. He distinguished himself in all that he did. Your beautiful mother, Betty, and he were superstars in the orbit of our parents' generation. I feel so lucky to have known and loved them,
Chris Hofer Myers

Chris Myers - July 04 at 11:22 AM



“ Thank you so much Chris. They loved you and cherished their friendship with you You always have been a ray of sunshine to them and me.

Lisa Maseng - July 05 at 08:22 AM



“ Thank you so much Bob Daddy so appreciated your kindness and thoughtfulness towards him. You were such a supportive and caring friend for many years.

Lisa Maseng - July 05 at 09:30 AM



“ Mari, I was saddened to hear of your father's passing. Beth Renken shared the news with me. Please know that you all will be in my prayers. I will do my best to steer Tropical Storm/Hurricane Elsa elsewhere on Thursday. Take care.

Sarah Walker Roth

Sarah W Roth - July 05 at 07:26 PM