



Steven K. Atiyah

February 18, 2022

Steven Khalil Atiyah (1930-2022) was born to Lebanese parents who were merchants and importers in Sierra Leone. At the age of five, his parents sent their three children to live with their grandparents in Lebanon. He thrived in school as a child and attended a Presbyterian high school in Lebanon. As a teenager he came to the U.S.A. to study engineering. He received a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering with an emphasis in Petroleum Refining at Tulsa University, a Master of Science in Theoretical and Applied Mathematics at Tulsa University, and a Ph.D. in Mathematics Education at University of Oklahoma. Additional course work was completed at American University of Beirut, Louisiana State University and University of Colorado. He became a U.S. citizen in the early seventies. He taught mathematics at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia for 36 years. He also taught part-time for thirty years at Tidewater Community College while teaching at Old Dominion University. He taught at the Chesapeake, Norfolk and Portsmouth campuses of T.C.C. He is the author of eight mathematics books designed for use at the college and university level. Before his teaching career at Old Dominion University he worked as a petroleum refining engineer in Lebanon and in France. Between his Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree he also worked in his parents' import-export business for several years. He and his wife traveled for pleasure throughout the entire United States and Canada and many countries world-wide. He spoke English, Arabic and French and some German. At the age of 91 he was teaching himself Spanish. He loved people

and sought to understand and appreciate different cultures. He was a very kind and caring person and was very interested in the welfare and success of his students. He will be missed by his family, friends and many others. He is survived by his wife of forty-seven years, Patricia S. Atiyah, of Portsmouth, Virginia and brothers-in-law and sisters- in- law; Arles and Louise Pease of Kingsport, Tennessee; Judy Jones of Chesapeake, Virginia, and Ray Gentry of Kingsport, Tennessee and many nephews and nieces. He was an active member of Green Acres Presbyterian Church in Portsmouth, Virginia. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Green Acres Presbyterian Church. The family will receive friends at the church 45 mins. prior to the service on Wednesday.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 23. 10:15 AM (ET)

Green Acres Prebyterian Church
3135 Hanley Ave
Portsmouth, VA

Service

FEB 23. 11:00 AM (ET)

Green Acres Prebyterian Church
3135 Hanley Ave
Portsmouth, VA

Tribute Wall

JG

“ Hi Pat. Judy and I were so sorry to hear about Steve. I think I owed him a phone call--that's a debt that I can never repay. I pulled out my calculator and determined that I have known Steve for almost forty years. Steve was a dear friend, a kind, kind man, and an impressive mathematician with a passion for math done correctly. I actually took a course from Steve while he was still at ODU. He did a terrific job on number theory.

Steve was deeply in love with you Pat. But, of course, you know that. He loved his work. He loved to write and produced an impressive collection of math books. Through his work and his friends and his church, he enriched so many lives, ours included. We are happy for the time that we were able to share with Steve and miss him already.

Judith and Richard Gill - February 25, 2022 at 12:15 PM

JS

“ Steve was one of the first faculty members I met when I joined the Math. Dept. at ODU in 1970. He was a congenial and helpful colleague. We had the same birthday. In retirement we would talk on the phone each year, wish each other a happy birthday and catch up. I will miss those conversations.

John Swetits

John Swetits - February 22, 2022 at 03:14 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Steven K. Atiyah.*



February 22, 2022 at 03:06 PM



“ *I will miss Steve. Out teaching time at Tidewater Community College overlapped by a few years. During that time, he introduced me to Lebanese food at two Norfolk restaurants. I share remember those experiences and Steve fondly.*

*Joe Joyner
TCC Mathematics (retired)*

Joe Joyner - February 22, 2022 at 02:20 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Steven K. Atiyah.*



February 22, 2022 at 02:04 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Steven K. Atiyah.*



February 22, 2022 at 10:34 AM

JA

“ As a colleague, Steve was always very congenial to me, and enjoyed showing me the material he'd been developing for the courses he taught in algebra and geometry. Plus he always kept a supply of delicious cookies in his desk drawer! I think he liked the fact that I'm British, given that he'd had a lot of British-based educational experiences growing up.
He was a very kind man, and I enjoyed his company.
John Adam

John A Adam - February 22, 2022 at 09:34 AM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Steven K. Atiyah.



February 22, 2022 at 05:41 AM

YA

“ Hi Pat, I know that you and Steve did many things together and enjoyed each other's company. 47 years for you two was truly a gift. I remember Steve had many books which he gave to Tidewater Community College, Norfolk Campus. The dedication of his books was held in the old Smith and Welton building which TCC bought and had renovated. It is truly a lovely building. Steve's books were given a very visible place on the first floor.
Please know that I care. I pray for your comfort and the comfort of your family.

Yvonne Aucoin, Math TCC

Yvonne Aucoin - February 21, 2022 at 09:03 AM

WH

“ *Pat, I am so sorry for your loss. I pray that God will bring you and your family peace and comfort during this most difficult time.*

William Hill - February 21, 2022 at 06:54 AM