

Anderson, Don F.

Don Fredrick Anderson, 78, of Springfield, Virginia, died Friday, September 16, 2005, at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center, of acute myelocytic leukemia (AML). He was born in Elkton on June 13, 1927 to Norman "Doc" and Ina (Ackerman) Anderson and graduated in 1945 from Elkton High School. After serving in the U.S. Navy from 1945 to 1946, he attended Michigan State College (now Michigan State University), where he graduated with a business degree. He worked for the Ford Motor Company from 1950 to 1953. He then joined the U.S. Air Force and, during his 19-year career, was posted in Montana, Morocco, New Mexico, Guam, California and, finally, in the Washington, D.C., area. Anderson worked as part of a military team who helped develop an early computer system used by the Air Force. His parents, Doc and Ina, enjoyed visiting Don and his family in many of the places where they were stationed. Upon his retirement from the Air Force in 1972, he worked for the U.S. House of Representatives and several defense contractors before retiring again in 1990. His work took him to Saudi Arabia for a year to assist the Royal Saudi Navy in computer system development. He and his wife of 54 years, Mary G. Anderson, traveled the world in retirement. Throughout his life, Anderson visited 76 countries. He was delighted to attend and see old friends at the 60th reunion of his high school on July 30, 2005. Anderson and his family enjoyed visiting relatives and friends in the "Thumb" and attended the Elkton Centennial Celebration in 1998. After his diagnosis in March 2005, Anderson participated in a clinical trial at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center for a new experimental treatment for AML. He was a member of St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Springfield, Virginia, and was an active volunteer for E.C.H.O. (Ecumenical Community Helping Others). Survivors include his wife, Mary G. Anderson; five children, Susan Anderson (Don Smith), of Pretty Lake, Indiana, Nancy Anderson (Don Gaddy), of Greensboro, Georgia, John Anderson (Lisa Anderson), of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Mary Clare Anderson (Regis Lefebure), of Silver Spring, Maryland, and Margaret Anderson (Jeffrey D'Eramo), of Washington, D.C. He is also survived by three grandchildren, Brandon Vetter, Clare Lefebure and Lucy D'Eramo.