

William "Rad" Radlinski (1921 - 2013)

Obituary

LEESBURG, Va. – William "Rad" Radlinski, 91, a World War II veteran and former Associate Director of the United States Geological Survey died Friday (Feb. 15, 2013), at Loudoun Hospital in Leesburg, Va. after a brief illness.

He was born on Aug. 13, 1921, in Salamanca and graduated from Salamanca's Jefferson Street High School in 1938. He served in the United States Army Corps of Engineers as a topographic engineer officer in the European Theater of Operations during WWII where he was in three campaigns, including the Battle of the Bulge. After the war, he graduated from Hofstra College and attended Georgetown University Graduate School. He remained in the U.S. Army Reserves retiring in 1981 at the rank of Lt. Colonel.



A Registered Professional Engineer and Certified Photogrammetrist, Radlinski had a 30-year career with the U.S. Geological Survey where he was the Associate Director for 10 years, nearly two of which he was Acting Director. Radlinski was president of the American Society of Photogrammetry in 1968, president of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) for three years in the mid 1970s, and was an Honorary Member of Great Britain's Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and FIG. He traveled extensively, including trips to the Soviet Union and was co-chairman of a joint US-USSR committee on environmental protection in the oil and gas industry. Mt. Radlinski, a 9,020-foot mountain in Antarctica, was named after him in 1963. Radlinski received the U.S. Department of Interior's Distinguished Service Award and was a member of the Cosmos Club since 1970. After retiring from the government in 1979, Radlinski served as Executive Director of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping for five Years.

For more than 15 years, Radlinski resided at Falcon's Landing, a continuing care retirement community in Potomac Falls, Va. where he served as president of the Residents' Council and the chairman of the newsletter editorial board. He was an avid writer and unrelenting editor, a skilled genealogist, a lifelong photographer, prolific woodworker and he played tennis well up into his 80s.

He is predeceased by his beloved wife of 69 years, Theresa (Harmuth); brothers, Leonard, James, Fred, and Donald; and a sister, Anne Marie Skrobacz. He is survived by sons, Richard of Queenstown, Md. and Robert of Bethesda, Md.; a sister, Julie Fusiara and sister-in-law Jane Radlinski, both of Olean. He has three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at Falcon's Landing, in Potomac Falls, Va., at 2 p.m. on March 15, 2013, followed by inurnment with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Salamanca Area Historical Memorial Fund, 125 Main St., Salamanca, N.Y. 14779