ALI B. CAMBEL

ALI BULENT CAMBEL

Of McLean, Virginia passed away on October 7, 2014, surrounded by two of his grandsons, Aaron Cambel and Brian Curry.

Born April 9, 1923 in Merano, Italy of parents Remziye Hanim Cambel and Hasan Cemil Cambel, a prominent couple in Istanbul, Turkey. He attended Robert College in Istanbul, receiving his degree with honors at age 19. He left Istanbul in 1943 to study naval architecture, then on to Caltech to study mechanical engineering, finally earning his PhD in mechanical engineering and mathematics at the University of Iowa.

A dedicated scholar and professor, he taught mechanical engineering and gas dynamics at Northwestern University where he became the Walter P. Murphy Distinguished Professor. He advised the US government on energy projects and served as Vice President for Research for the Institute for Defense Analysis. Working for the government represented his way to give back to his adopted country. He returned to academia as Dean of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Wayne State University and as Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and rounded out his career as Deputy Assistant Director of the National Science Foundation, and Professor Emeritus of Applied Sciences at George Washington University.

He inspired and was inspired by a legacy of students who became long-time friends and colleagues. Predeceased by his wife, Marion DePaar Cambel and his son, Metin Cambel, he shall be missed by daughters, Emel Cambel, Leyla Cambel and Sarah Summers; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held December 13, 2014 at 2 p.m. at the Langley Hill Friends Meetinghouse, 6410 Georgetown Pike, McLean, Virginia. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Capital Caring Hospice, 2900 Telestar Ct., Falls Church, VA 22042 or online at www.capitalcaring.org.

Published in The Washington Post on Oct. 31, 2014