Samuel Pope Morgan Jr., 91, of Basking Ridge died on May 19, 2015. Sam Morgan was born on July 14, 1923, in San Diego, California, the son of Samuel Pope Morgan and Beatrice Marie Summers Morgan. He grew up with his brother Allan on a cattle, alfalfa, and cotton ranch near Casa Grande, Arizona, where his father was a rancher and business man, and his mother was a teacher, school board member, and homemaker. During his youth, Sam developed a love of poetry and word play that lasted his entire life. Sam attended the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena from 1939 to 1943 and from 1944 to 1947, with a short interval in 1943-44 at the University of Berkeley. He received BS, MS, and PhD degrees from Caltech, all in physics. After finishing his PhD he joined Bell Telephone Laboratories at Murray Hill, New Jersey, as a research mathematician. Sam and Mary Caroline Annin were married on January 23, 1948, at Pasadena Presbyterian Church. They had met at PPC, where Caroline was a choir member, while Sam was in graduate school and Caroline was working at Occidental College. They settled in New Jersey, first in a walk-up apartment in Springfield and then from 1950 to 2003 in Morris Township, where they raised four daughters. Sam retired from Bell Laboratories in 1998, and in 2003 they moved to Fellowship Village in Basking Ridge, New Jersey. Sam’s professional career centered on the applications of mathematics to engineering problems of interest to Bell Laboratories, particularly problems involving electromagnetic waves and/or data networks. He published about 50 technical papers, was granted 10 patents, and was a Life Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. As a manager, he was director of computing science research at Bell Labs/Murray Hill during the years (1967-82) when members of his organization were developing the Unix computer operating system and the C programming language that are still extensively used in modern computers and that paved the way for the Internet. During his career, Sam traveled on numerous recruiting trips to universities across the United States to increase the diversity of the Bell Labs research team. This was at a time when the fields of math and science were heavily dominated by white males. He often noted that one of the greatest strengths of the American education system has been its ability to develop creative thinking. Sam and Caroline joined the Presbyterian Church in Morristown in 1950, and Sam was a member for 65 years, until his death. After retiring from Bell Labs, Sam worked for several years on digitizing and updating the church library collection so that the library would continue to be relevant to the needs of the church. Sam and Caroline maintained a lifelong interest in travel; they visited all of the continents except Antarctica and made frequent visits to friends and family in California and Arizona.

Sam is survived by his wife Caroline of Basking Ridge, daughters Caroline Gail Morgan and her husband Gerald Dunifer of Ferndale, Michigan; Lesley Anne Morgan Thompson and her husband Alvin Thompson of Windsor, Connecticut; Alison Morgan (the Greek Orthodox nun, Sister Pelagia) of Tucson, Arizona; and Diane Elizabeth Morgan of Chicago, Illinois. He is also survived by three grandchildren, Andrew Morgan Thompson of Windsor, Connecticut; Catherine Joette Thompson Maclean and her husband Christopher Maclean of Middlebury, Connecticut; and Julia Annin Thompson of Washington, D.C. His brother, Allan Morgan of Casa Grande, Arizona, died in 2010.

A memorial service will be held in the Chapel of the Presbyterian Church in Morristown (57 E. Park Place) at 3:00 PM on Sunday, May 31, followed by a reception in the church’s Mutch Hall. Donations in Sam Morgan’s memory may be made to the Presbyterian Church in Morristown (65 South Street, Morristown, NJ 07960) or to the California Institute of Technology (MC 5-32, 1200 E. California Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91125).

Funeral Home
Doyle Funeral Home
106 Maple Ave. Morristown, NJ 07960

Published in Daily Record on May 28, 2015