



Joe Burton Linker Jr.
7/23/1923 – 7/21/2016

Joe Burton Linker Jr., 92, born in Durham NC, raised in Chapel Hill NC. He passed away on 7/21/2016. He was a resident of Carol Woods Retirement Community to which he came after having been away from Chapel Hill for 47 years. He was the son of math Professor Dr. Joe Burton Linker and Ione Markham Linker.

He was a 1935 Charter member of the Chapel Hill High School Band, Trumpet Player. He graduated in the class of 1940. His love of music continued throughout his life as he played trumpet in different College and Village wind ensembles and singing for some 55 years in church choirs and community choruses.

In 1944 he graduated from UNC-CH with a BS in Physics, then was immediately commissioned Ensign USNR receiving technical radar training at Harvard and MIT and was assigned pacific sea duty as radar officer on the naval cruiser as World War II came to an end. Returning to graduate school after active duty he was an Instructor in UNC's Department of Mathematics as he took graduate physics courses pending entering NC State Engineering School. In 1949 he completed his MS in Electrical Engineering degree and began his technical career at General Electric's Electronics Laboratory in Syracuse NY. He was honored to be made of member of Eta Kappa Nu, a member of Sigma Xi, and later, a Senior Member of IEEE. He was soon licensed as a professional Engineer in New York. He was a graduate of General Electric's high recognized 3-year graduate Advanced Engineering "ABC" Course.

At General Electric he career was spent in advanced development engineering work and its management in electronics and communications. In 1958 he joined GE's communications Department in Lynchburg, Va. Here his project was designing of GE's first microwave telecommunications system for the Southern Railway United States system.

Linker was active in civic affairs and in his church. He was a past president of the Lynchburg Rotary Club, past president of the Lynchburg SPHEX Club, and First President of the Friends of the Lynchburg Public Library. He was an former member of First Presbyterian of Lynchburg and active member of University Presbyterian in Chapel Hill.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the J. Burton Linker Distinguished Professorship in Mathematics (100550) at UNC-Chapel Hill, With checks payable to the Arts and Sciences Foundation, Campus Box 6115, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-6115, or at <http://giving.unc.edu/gift/asf>