

PARVIN, Richard Horace



92, passed away peacefully in his sleep at home in Clearwater, on Aug. 11, 2014. He was born May 28, 1922, in Bradenton, son of Clinton Fisk and Beatrice Ward Parvin. On Sept. 15, 1946, he married Marjorie Wells Allen of Snow Camp, NC, and they would have celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary on Sept. 15, 2014. They have three children, Jean, Edward and John. Raised in Manatee, Parvin was a 1939 graduate of Bradenton High School.

He attended Clemson University, but left to serve in the U.S. Air Force from 1940-45. As a B-24 bomber pilot with the 459th Bomb Group based near Cerignola, Italy, Parvin flew 35 missions over Nazi-occupied Europe. He received several military honors, including the Distinguished Flying Cross and Bronze Star.

After the war, Parvin graduated from Auburn University in 1946 with a degree in aeronautical engineering. He worked for several companies involved in designing aircraft, and was the first engineer hired specifically for the new Honeywell plant, which opened in Clearwater in 1957. At Honeywell, Parvin was involved in aerospace engineering, including development of inertial navigation systems for Ceritaur and other early spacecraft. In 1966, Parvin co-founded Navigate, Inc., a Clearwater-based company that specialized in design, engineering and manufacturing for the U.S. government. As President of the company, Parvin enjoyed overseeing a wide range of contracts in the U.S., Japan and Europe.

Parvin was the author of "Inertial Navigation," published by D. Van Nostrand Company in 1962, one of the first books on the subject. He also published many articles in professional engineering and aerospace journals, and in Christian publications. After retirement, he completed extensive genealogical research into the history of the Parvins, complementing research by his mother about the Ward family of Vermont. As a child, Parvin started experimenting with photography, and remained an ardent photographer and videographer his entire life, documenting family and community events over more than 80 years. He was raised in Manatee Methodist Church. In 1957, Richard and Marjorie Parvin and their children joined Skycrest United Methodist Church in Clearwater, and were among the earliest members. He had faith that when the body dies, the spirit goes to heaven.

Richard Parvin is survived by his wife; three children and their spouses; and six grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at 11 am, Saturday, Aug. 23, at Skycrest United Methodist Church, Clearwater. Inurnment will be at a family plot at Manasota Memorial Park, Bradenton. Donations in memory of Richard H. Parvin may be made to Skycrest United Methodist Church, 2045 Drew St., Clearwater, FL 33765.

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