



Charles S. Gehrie

April 16, 1923 - June 13, 2018

Charles S. Gehrie passed away peacefully June 13, 2018. He was born in Poland to Shula and Isaac Ginsburg. Escaping growing persecutions in Europe, he immigrated with his mother and father to Cuba and subsequently to the United States in 1926 where Charles grew up in Boston, MA. While attending Tufts University as an undergraduate, he met Jeanette Levine, his future wife. He studied engineering at Stevens Institute of Technology at M.I.T. In 1943, Charles and Jeanette were married just before he joined the U.S. Army Air Force. He served for two years as flight engineer in the China-Burma-India Theater of War under the command of General Chenault in the Combat Cargo Command and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross. After the war, Charles worked at Presto Lock, Inc. until 1990 when he took the job of vice-president at Kidde & Company. Among his many inventions were a popular cigarette lighter, a lipstick tube, and a combination lock that many travelers around the world have affixed to their luggage. He has over 100 patents in his name.

Before coming to Florida, the Gehries lived in New Jersey, 25 years in Montclair and 20 years in West Orange. Starting as snowbirds and later as permanent residents, they had a 27-year association with the Players Club on Longboat Key. They were avid tennis players and especially enjoyed reading, music, and traveling.

Charles and his late wife, Jeanette (2014), moved to Plymouth Harbor in 2012. Charles was well-known and loved throughout Plymouth Harbor for

many reasons, but chiefly his ability to sum up much conversation and discourse in a single word or a simple phrase for which many were grateful. He leaves three children; Mark, Lisa and Holly; six grandsons, Adam, Eric, Ian, David, Sanders and Abram; 5 great grandchildren and a lifetime of friends.

A Service of Celebration will be held Saturday, June 16, 4:00 p.m. at Plymouth Harbor, 700 John Ringling Blvd. Expressions of Sympathy may be sent to "the Gehrie Family" at Plymouth Harbor.

Memorial Gifts: The Plymouth Harbor Foundation: Jeanette Gehrie Music Scholarship