

OBITUARY FOR DR. THOMAS WATSON GIBBS

Thomas Watson Gibbs of Wilmington, Delaware, died Friday, August 12, 2005 at age 72 after a valiant fight with lung and brain cancer.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Carole Loring Gibbs; three daughters, Desiree Anne Barker of Montclair, Virginia, Lauren Diane Lloyd of Oak Hill, Virginia and Hilari Suzanne Gibbs-Chiarkas of Ridley Park, Pennsylvania; two sons-in-law, Steven Barker and Nicholas Chiarkas; and two grandchildren, Ashley Elizabeth Barker and Thomas Bradford Lloyd. Three sisters, Martha Kenney, Ruth Gorham and Joyce Devan, and a brother, Robert Gibbs, also survive him. A fourth sister, Evelyn Weyhenmeyer, is now deceased.

Dr. Gibbs was born September 27, 1932 in Alexandria, Virginia, to Jesse Lillian and Lucius Walter Gibbs. He graduated from George Washington High School of Alexandria, Virginia, and attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass., receiving bachelor, master and doctorate degrees. After serving in the Air Force for two years, he returned to New England to work for AVCO Corporation and resumed his doctoral studies at MIT. He completed his studies in 1965 and joined the DuPont Company as a research metallurgist. During his 26-year career with DuPont, he initiated and supervised a wear resistant materials research and development program, served as the manager of a wear resistant parts venture, and became the manager of engineering materials and mechanical consultants. When he retired from DuPont in 1991, he joined the Materials Technology Institute, a research consortium founded to solve problems within the Chemical Industry. He became Executive Director of MTI in 1995, resigned from that position in 1998 and stayed to assist in consulting until the year 2000.

Interment will be held privately at his wife's family cemetery in Maine. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to MIT for the Thomas W. Gibbs Memorial Fund. Checks should be mailed to the Office of Memorial Gifts, MIT, Room E-19-411, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139.