Glenn Edwin Schweitzer



Glenn Edwin Schweitzer, 93, died peacefully at home, in Menlo Park, CA, on October 14, 2023. He had lived much of his life in and around Washington, DC, moving to CA, with his wife, Carole, in 2021 to be near his two daughters and their families.

Born in Cleveland OH, on October 1, 1930, to William Kenmore Schweitzer and Helen Alberta Knuth, Glenn graduated from Claymont High, in Wilmington, DE. He spent his high school summers with his Aunt Cora and Uncle Archie, who was the superintendent at Lakeside, OH, a Chautauqua community that would become an annual reunion destination for extended and future family.

Having received an appointment to West Point, where he enjoyed sports as much as academics, he made lasting friendships that continued with his participation in the Class of 1953 alumni group in the DC area. He has said more than once that if he could live a part of his life over again, he would go back to West Point.

He was a man of amazing energy, intelligence, and passion, who loved a rich and rewarding social life with family and friends. In every spare moment, he played tennis, often packing his tennis racket, if there was any possibility of playing--and there often was.

The mantra that constantly motivated him was "how are we going to save the world today?"

Studying the Russian language while at West Point intensified his interest in global affairs and set the stage for his long career in international scientific cooperation, focusing primarily on U.S. scientific relations with Russia (and other countries of the former Soviet Union); Eastern Europe; and Iran. He also represented the United States in activities sponsored by NATO, the OECD, WHO, and OAS.

He was appointed in 1956 as a Foreign Service Officer, and soon arrived in Embassy Belgrade as Political Officer. In 1960, he was assigned by the State Department to the California Institute of Technology, where he earned his master's degree in nuclear engineering. He subsequently conducted research activities at Argonne National Laboratory, University of Nevada at Las Vegas, Cornell University, and the University of North Carolina.

While at the State Department, Glenn was assigned to the science office of the new Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, followed by three years as the first Science Attache in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. Other government assignments included Science Advisor for Marine Affairs in the Office of the Vice President, Director of USAID's first office of science and technology, the first Director of EPA's Office of Toxic Substances, and the Director of EPA's Environmental Monitoring Systems Laboratory in Las Vegas, including service at the Nevada Test Site.

In the 1980s, he joined the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), in Washington DC, where he led the Academy's efforts to preserve and expand its exchange program with the USSR. As the program expanded under his leadership, he was granted a leave of absence to move to Moscow in 1992, to lead

the establishment of the International Science and Technology Center, which soon had 27 sponsoring countries and during two decades disbursed \$1B in grants to provide support for redirection of former Soviet Union scientists to civilian research activities.

Beginning in 1999, he led establishment of new science relationships between the NAS and dozens of Iranian institutions, with 3,000 scientists from the two countries eventually participating in science exchange visits that continued until 2018.

A signature of Glenn's commitment to people-to-people cooperation was to invite foreign delegations to his home for a meal, to see how ordinary Americans lived. One highlight evening included entertaining a dozen Russian scientists, the Russian Embassy Science Attache, and some 10 or so American scientists and Russophiles. Carole invited an accordion player to entertain, and by chance he was a member of the Balalaika Society and had been to Russia with a group of other performers. All evening, he played requests for traditional Russian folksongs.

Author of 12 books and dozens of extensive reports published by the NAS on international scientific affairs, Glenn led preparation of the 1999 NAS report "The Pervasive Role of Science, Technology, and Health in Foreign Policy," which resulted in the creation of the Office of Science and Technology Advisor to the Secretary of State.

Recipient of many national and international awards, Glenn most prized the Presidents' Award from the NAS, the National Academy of Engineering, and the National Institute of Medicine, in 2007; and in 2010, the Science Diplomacy Award from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, describing him as "a tireless advocate for international science cooperation and the expanding role of science in foreign relations."

He was a man of high integrity, a man of peace, but not a peaceful man--always moving forward to make the world a better place.

He will be deeply missed by his wife, Carole, who lovingly remembers him for his steadfast support, quirky sense of humor, wide-ranging conversations, and shared adventures (including a trip to Chernobyl) during their 32 years together; daughter Carol Rossi (Craig) and granddaughters Sarah and Marie Rossi; daughter Diane Schweitzer (Steve Schramm) and grandsons Zak and Noah Schramm; brother Dennis Schweitzer (Jan); and a variety of relatives, colleagues, and friends around the globe. He is also survived by his first wife, Janet Leask, who is the mother of his children.

Inurnment will take place at Arlington National Cemetery at a date to be determined.

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