



## **PPI Memorial to Stanley A. Mruk**

***January 10, 2017***

### In memory of Stanley A. Mruk

Stanley A. Mruk, a devoted leader in the development and use of plastics and a pioneer within the pipe industry, passed on December 28, 2016 at his home in New Providence, New Jersey. He was 89. Mruk's contributions facilitated pervasive advancements, broadened applications and improved plastics for pipeline infrastructure throughout a period spanning nearly six decades. Among his professional roles, Stan served as The Plastics Pipe Institute's (PPI's) Executive Director, and as the PPI's Hydrostatic Stress Board (HSB) Chairman, contributing significant service and managing various responsibilities over a number of years. Additionally, Mruk fulfilled positions of renown in other closely related, collaborative industry associations, and continued to supply insight, advice, counsel and guidance until just a couple of years ago.

Subsequent to the time of Stan's graduation, having earned his master's degree in Chemical Engineering from Newark College of Engineering (NJIT), Mruk joined forces with what became an A-list team of plastic pipe experts instrumental in creating and evolving test methodologies and protocols, implementing them for plastics in pipe systems and resulting in opening up opportunities for widespread applications that provide progressive and beneficial performance properties. In 1995, Mruk was honored with *The Plastics Pipe Institute Honorary Lifetime Member* award. This award has only been received by eight PPI members in the past 26 years.

In 2013, *The PPI Hydrostatic Stress Board (HSB) Stan Mruk Lifetime Achievement Award* was created to recognize HSB members. Mruk himself was the first recipient.

"Stan's exacting pursuit to initiate test protocols, facilitate evaluation processes and drive innovation, nurturing the use of plastics for pipelines represents the bedrock of the industry," stated Tony Radoszewski, PPI's current President. "Stan was an engineer with a firm grasp of the needs and practicality of plastics for pipeline systems, and a modest visionary who made a momentous impact. He truly leaves a legacy to humanity due in great part to his thoroughness, inventiveness and perceptiveness, as he has helped to make available inherently better-performing infrastructure options. A majority of infrastructure made from other materials we are currently struggling to repair and replace due to critically debilitating and decaying status. Stan saw qualities in plastics that he believed could potentially yield more suitable solutions," Radoszewski shared.

Stan Mruk was one of the first members of the HSB, originated in the 1950's as the Working Stress Subcommittee. He remained engaged as an HSB member and in touch with the PPI and the industry in a broad and encompassing manner, contributing whenever possible, and by sharing his knowledge and vision."

"Mruk also has received the ASTM International Award of Merit, as well as many other accolades and recognitions throughout his lifetime. It was truly rewarding to have known him and to have worked with him," Radoszewski concluded.

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Stanley A. Mruk Burial Service Program, January 3, 2017

*In loving memory of Stanley A. Mruk*



*April 27, 1927 - December 28, 2017*

## Stan's Story

(as supplied By Suzy Romero, Stanley A. Mruk's Daughter)

Stan was born in Gorlice, Poland on April 27, 1927. Due to the unstable political and economical environment his family emigrated to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Stan arrived in Buenos Aires February 2, 1930 on the ship Arlanza. Stan had a happy childhood, now speaking Spanish as well as Polish. His father, Wladyslaw, was a mechanical engineer & foundry owner and active in the Polish community serving as the Vice-President of the Society for a Free Poland. When Stanley was 11 years of age his father suddenly died. He and his mother, Helena, were taken in by friends. This family had a son who let Stan use his chemistry set. Stan credits this with sparking his interest in his future career. While Helena opened a dress shop to support Stan and herself, life as a young widow was not easy and so the decision was made to move to the United States as Helena had 3 sisters here. Stan arrived in New York on April 21, 1941 on the ship SS Argentina. Stanley was almost 14. He entered school not knowing any English and yet managed to learn it quickly. French became a favorite subject.

Stan graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School, Elizabeth, NJ on June 20th, 1946. He went on to major in chemical engineering at Newark College of Engineering (now NJIT) where he earned his Bachelor's in 1950 and his Master's in 1956. While in college he attended a St. Patrick's Day dance and the pretty brunette he asked to dance to the Tennessee Waltz became his dance partner forevermore. Connie and Stan were wed on September 26, 1953. They would go on to celebrate 61 anniversaries together. Connie had a tradition of cooking corned beef & cabbage each St. Patrick's Day in remembrance of the day they met. Stan and Connie soon became a family of five when their three children: Walter, William and Suzanne arrived. Stan was devoted to his career in the Plastics Pipe Industry. He worked long hours often coming home from his job in Manhattan on the 7:10 train only to eat dinner and head down to his office to work. His profession also required that he travel often and due to this he was able to visit numerous places around the world. He returned from his trips with interesting stories of cultural and culinary experiences to share at the dinner table. Stan more often than not would have a souvenir or gift of some sort tucked into his carryon for Connie upon his return.

When Stan wasn't working he had many interests. He was an avid reader & subscribed to many periodicals that enabled him to speak on almost any subject with insight. Stan enjoyed music, especially classical which his grandchildren refer to as "Pop Pops music". One of his favorite pieces was Ravel's Bolero. Perhaps less known about Stan was that he enjoyed sports. While he watched football and basketball he was especially fond of tennis which he had played in his younger years. Most of his "free" time however was consumed by a project that he was especially proud of the - Lake House. Stan decided a home in the mountains would be nice but instead of buying one he went to Lindal Cedar Homes and purchased a kit. He spent the next 40 years working on it. He framed it, built the walls, floors, & stairs. He installed the plumbing & electrical, kitchen cabinets & windows. He painted all the rooms and built all the decks. If you can see it or use it he did it He and Connie went as often as they could and he always had a project underway. Only after dinner would he sit back in his recliner with his beloved dog Alfie at his side and sip a gin and tonic.

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We hope Stan and Connie are sitting together now with Alfie at their side. Perhaps they are looking out onto a serene lake. The sunlight is gently alighting the waters surface creating a glinting blue sparkle. A brilliance of Light, Love and Faith forever reminiscent of the twinkle in Stan's radiant blue eyes.

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**Funeral Service**  
**The 'Reverend 'Doctor Carol A. Lindsay, Pastor**  
**Calvary Lutheran Church**  
**Cranford; NJ.**

*“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”*  
*Psalm 23*

**Internment**  
**Saint Gertrude Cemetery**  
**53 Inman Avenue**  
**Colonia, NJ**