

## George Suter Reichenbach, Jr. (19 May 1919 – 2 Nov 1989)

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### **George Reichenbach dies; was industrial hygienist**

A memorial Mass for George S. Reichenbach, a pioneer in the field of industrial health and the first industrial hygienist for the Bethlehem Steel Corp. here, will be offered at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Isaac Jogues Roman Catholic Church, 9215 Old Harford Road.

Mr. Reichenbach, who was 70 and a resident of Parkville, died Nov. 2 at Union Memorial Hospital after a long illness.

Born in Washington, Mr. Reichenbach received his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Catholic University in 1940 and a master's degree in industrial hygiene from Harvard University in 1948.

In the years between, he served in the U.S. Army Air Forces as an engineering officer and first lieutenant in a B-17 bomber squadron based in Italy during World War II.

Early in his career, Mr. Reichenbach worked at the Army Chemical Corps facility at Edgewood Arsenal and for the U.S. Public Health Service.

After completing his master's degree, he served as a research assistant at Harvard before taking a job at the American Smelting and Refining Co. in Utah.

Mr. Reichenbach joined Bethlehem Steel in 1950, becoming the corporation's first industrial hygienist in the Baltimore area. Over the next 28 years, he developed worker health and safety programs that were implemented at the steel mill and the corporation's area shipyards.

According to the company, Mr. Reichenbach was a leader in developing ventilation techniques for ships that were being built or repaired. He also led the way in developing worker protection from lead-fume exposure during the scrapping of warships that followed World War II, the company said.

While at Bethlehem, he was a visiting lecturer at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, where he worked with the late Dr. Anna Baetjer, a leader in the field of worker health.

In 1966, Mr. Reichenbach received recognition from his peers in being awarded one of the first 100 certificates in the field by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene.

Mr. Reichenbach retired in 1978, and he moved for a year to North Carolina to do consulting work with the Research Triangle Institute.

He wrote many technical papers on worker exposure to lead and silica and on methods of ventilation of work areas in steel mill buildings and aboard ships. He also co-wrote a book on heat exposure in the workplace.

He was a member of the American Academy of Industrial Hygiene and a member and former chairman of the Maryland sections of the American Industrial Hygiene Association and American Institute of Chemical Engineering.

A recovering alcoholic, Mr. Reichenbach was active in Alcoholics Anonymous for the past 14 years.

An avid golfer, he belonged to the Winters Run Golf Club in Bel Air and was a former member of the Sparrows Point Country Club.

Surviving are his wife of 11 years, the former Irma Skinner; two daughters, Ellen Reichenbach Bruber of Dickeyville and Lisa Reichenbach of New York; a sister, Doris R. Bennett of Raleigh, N.C.; six stepchildren; and 12 step-grandchildren.

The family suggested memorial donations to the hospice program of Union Memorial Hospital.