

Norman Edward Sharpless

(- 20 Jan 1989)

Sharpless, Norman E., PhD. On Friday, January 20, 1989, Norman E. Sharpless of Bethesda, MD; beloved husband of Edith G. Sharpless; brother of Howard F. Sharpless and Marie A. Klossner; cousin of Howard L. Roth. Friends may call at Joseph Gawler's Sons, 5130 Wisconsin Ave., at Harrison St. N.W., on Sunday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m., where service will be held on Monday, January 23 at 11 a.m. Interment Congressional Cemetery. Sympathy may be expressed in the form of contributions to a charity of your choice.

The Washington Post, January 26, 1989, p. B6

Norman E. Sharpless

NIH Research Chemist

Norman E. Sharpless, 72, a research chemist with the National Institutes of Health for 51 years before retiring in 1988 from the National Institute for Arthritis Diabetes & Digestive Kidney Diseases, died of cancer Jan. 20 at Suburban Hospital. He lived in Bethesda.

During his career at NIH, his research work ranged from studies in the toxicology of lead and arsenic in insecticides to high energy radiation. He also did work in photo-chemistry, ultra violet and infrared spectroscopy.

In World War II he helped direct research concerning health hazards to workers and the military by exposure to DDT and alloy metals. In more recent years, he had worked on theoretical molecular models for drugs as well as research concerning anti-AIDS drugs, diabetes and cataracts.

Dr. Sharpless was a native of Washington and a 1933 graduate of Central High School. He was a graduate of George Washington University and received a doctorate in physical chemistry from the University of Maryland. He began his NIH career in 1936, when he joined its industrial hygiene division.

He was the author of more than 60 technical works and was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kensington. His professional memberships included the American Chemical Society.

Survivors include his wife, Edith G., of Bethesda; a brother, Howard F. of Olney, and a sister, Marie A. Klossner of Adelphi.