



## *Dr. Linvil Gene Rich*

(March 10, 1921 - September 29, 2011)

Linvil Gene Rich, of 117 Victoria Circle, Anderson, SC died Thursday, September 29, 2011 after a brief illness.

Born March 10, 1921 in Pana, IL, he was the son of the late Orvil C. and Lillian W. Rich. After graduating from Pana High School, he attended University of Illinois, West Virginia University and

Stanford University. Gene was drafted by the Army and served as an infantry squad leader in Europe during World War II under General George Patton. After the war, he returned to school at Virginia Tech where he earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering, M.S. in Sanitary Engineering, and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry. After graduating, he performed research at the University of California-Berkeley. He subsequently taught at Virginia Tech for five years while he also served in the U.S. Navy Reserves. After joining the U.S. Public Health Service, Gene and his family moved to Bolivia for a year, assisting the Bolivian government in establishing water and wastewater systems. Upon his return to the United States, Gene taught six years at Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) in Chicago. While at IIT, he authored two groundbreaking textbooks which radically changed how Environmental Engineering was taught. In 1961, Gene was appointed as the Department Head of Civil Engineering at Clemson University. One year later he was appointed as Dean of Engineering, a position which he held for eleven years before returning to the classroom to teach. During his tenure as Dean, he expanded the Engineering graduate program and helped establish the first Ph.D. programs. In addition, he created the nationally recognized Environmental Systems Engineering graduate program, one of the first interdisciplinary environmental engineering programs in the country. For the next 15 years, Gene taught undergraduate and graduate environmental engineering courses while performing research in aerated lagoon wastewater treatment processes. This research led to three additional books and numerous technical papers. He also taught one summer in China. After retiring in 1986, Gene continued to do research and write technical papers on wastewater treatment while also doing genealogy research. In 1991, the L.G. Rich Environmental Engineering Research Laboratory at Clemson University was dedicated to him.

Awards and recognitions over his distinguished career include: • Charter Member, Distinguished Alumni at Virginia Tech Civil Engineering Dept. • Charter Member, Thomas Green Clemson Academy of Distinguished Engineers • American Society of Civil Engineers Rudolph Hering Medal • Exceptional Service Award, National Wildlife Federation • Faculty Excellence Award, Clemson Board of Trustees • South Carolina Order of the Palmetto • Alumni Professor Emeritus, Clemson University

He also was a member of numerous honor societies such as Chi Epsilon, Tau Beta Pi, and Phi Kappa Phi. Moreover, he was a registered Professional Engineer and a Diplomat of Environmental Engineers.

Gene was predeceased by his parents, his first wife Peggy, a son Linvil Burton, and a sister, Gloria. He is survived by his wife Molly of Anderson, SC; a son Graham (Karen) of Little Rock, AR; a granddaughter, Diana (Ben) Hall of Atlanta, GA; two great grandchildren, Mason Linvil and Anna Claire Hall of Atlanta; and a daughter-in-law Margaret Roper Rich of Seneca, SC.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, October 3, 2011 at St. John's United Methodist Church, 515 South McDuffie Street, Anderson conducted by Rev. Dan Batson and Dr. Von Reynolds. The family will receive friends following the service in the church parlor. A private burial will be held prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, gifts can be made to Clemson University Foundation, Linvil G. Rich Water Environment Association Fellowship Endowment, P.O. Box 1889, Clemson, SC 29633 or Hospice of the Upstate/Rainey House, 1835 Rogers Rd., Anderson, SC 29621.

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