DEATHS

People You Knew

Charles Barthle

Dr. Robert Charles Barthle (Col. U.S. Army, retired), former Groton resident, was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors, November 13, 1989. He passed away unexpectedly in Fairfax, Va., November 6, 1989.

Dr. Barthle was born in Groton, March 6, 1917. He attended Groton High School, graduating in 1935. He received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from South Dakota State University in 1941. In 1948 he received a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois. He was the first to retrieve radar echoes from the sun as part of his dissertation research. He earned a PhD from Stanford University in 1961.

He served as a signal officer, maintaining communications for General Patton, during World War II. He taught electricity at West Point Military Academy. While stationed in Iran he served as the communications liaison to the Shah. After returning to the United States, he worked with Dr. Von Braun at Redstone Arsenal, starting up the Army Ballistic Missile Agency. Dr. Barthle did extensive work on communication satellites for the U.S. Army while stationed at Fort Momouth, N.J. and the Defense Communications Agency, Washington, D.C. After leaving military service in 1968, he joined COMSAT, where he directed development and installation of COMSAT's earth stations worldwide. Dr. Barthle retired as assistant vice president of COMSAT General Corporation in 1984.

Dr. Barthle is survived by two sons and one daughter, Robert C., Jr., Fairfax Station, Va.; John S.A., Karlsruhe, West Germany; and M. Patricia, Gloucester Pt., Va. He is also survived by three grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews, including Orville (Buster) Huffman, Groton, and Jack Huffman, Selby.

Dr. Barthle was proceeded in death by his wife, Patricia Nilan Barthle; his parents; his brother, Andrew; and his two sisters, Elfrieda and Hildegarde.