



Frank N. Piasecki

October 24, 1919 - February 11, 2008

A Funeral Mass for Frank N. Piasecki, the helicopter pioneer who died Monday at his Haverford home, will be said at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul, 1723 Race St., Philadelphia. Mr. Piasecki, 88, remained active as chief executive of the Piasecki Aircraft Corp., which he founded more than 50 years ago. An earlier company he founded evolved into what is now the Boeing Co. Rotorcraft Division in Ridley.

He received patents for 24 aeronautical inventions. In 1943 he became the second American to develop and fly his own helicopter, the PV-2. Two years later he developed and flew the world's first helicopter with two counter-rotating horizontal rotors working in tandem.

Mr. Piasecki graduated from Overbrook High School. He studied mechanical engineering at the University of Pennsylvania, where he was concertmaster of the student orchestra, and earned a bachelor's degree from New York University. In 1986, President Ronald Reagan honored Mr. Piasecki with the National Medal of Technology. In 2005, he received the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Lifetime Achievement Award.

He was a director of Crown, Cork & Seal Co., the American Helicopter Society, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the American Helicopter Museum, the Foreign Policy Research Institute, and the Kosciusko

Foundation.

He is survived by his wife, Vivian Weyerhaeuser Piasecki; daughters Lynn Cunningham and Nicole Heymann; sons Frederick, Frank, Michael, John, and Gregory; and 13 grandchildren.

Previous Events

Service

FEB 16. 2:00 PM (ET)

Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul
1723 Race Street
Philadelphia, PA