



Charles Michael "Mike" Roland

April 22, 1952 - October 2, 2021

Charles Michael "Mike" Roland, 69, of Waldorf, MD, died on October 2, 2021.

He was born in 1952 in Trenton, NJ to Charles and Carol Roland.

He graduated from Grove City College in 1974 and received a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Pennsylvania State University in 1980. He spent six years at Firestone Tire & Rubber Company before joining the Chemistry Division at the Naval Research Laboratory in 1986, where he served as Head of the Polymer Physics Section from 1989 to 2015, and as Senior Scientist in Soft Matter Physics until his retirement in 2020. He had a prolific career researching the dynamics of condensed matter, including polymers and liquid crystals, with applications to military armor and infrastructure protection. His many achievements include authoring over 400 peer-reviewed scientific papers, 12 book chapters, and a book, *Viscoelastic Behavior of Rubbery Materials*; receiving 22 patents for his inventions; and winning many prestigious awards, including the Charles Goodyear Medal from the Rubber Division of the American Chemical Society. He was named a Fellow of the American Physical Society and a Fellow of the Institute of Materials, Minerals, and Mining for his scientific contributions.

He married Carol (Procopio) in State College, PA in 1978, and they have called Waldorf, MD home since 1986. As an active member of Calvary Gospel

Church, he served as a Deacon and a regular Sunday School teacher, and he engaged in outreach as a member of the Gideons. In his younger years he was an avid basketball player, playing for Hamilton High and later coaching and instilling a love of the game in his children. He could often be found imitating his childhood heroes in the driveway and dunking on an 8-foot basket while dubbing himself "Dr. Dunkenstein." More recently, he became a prolific woodworker, crafting cutting boards, toys for his grandchildren, and small furniture. His other interests included keeping pet fish, target shooting, bicycling, and movies (zombies, Westerns, and anything Clint Eastwood), but he was most passionate about Penn State football.

He is survived by his wife, Carol; sister, Deborah Gogan of Richlands, NC; children: Douglas and wife Jennifer Roland of Woodbine, MD, Alison and husband Joseph Sivak of Chapel Hill, NC, and Daniel and wife Griselle Roland of Arlington, VA; grandchildren: Kayla, Hailey, Rachel, Luke, Isabelle, Zoe, Reagan, and Eli; and loyal dog and driving companion, Francis.

Services will be held at Calvary Gospel Church in Waldorf, MD on October 15 at 11 am (viewing at 9 am). In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Foundation. Donations can be made online at <http://mskcc.convio.net/goto/MikeRoland> or by mailing a check to:

Attn: Rachel Flannery
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Office of Development
PO Box 27106
New York, NY 10087

Please indicate on the check memo line that the gift is in memory of Mike Roland.

Cemetery Details

Trinity Memorial Gardens And Mausoleum

3221 Mattawoman-Beantown Road
Waldorf, MD 20601

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **15**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Calvary Gospel Church
11150 Berry Road
Waldorf, MD 20603

Service

OCT **15**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Calvary Gospel Church
11150 Berry Road
Waldorf, MD 20603

Tribute Wall



“ *Charles Michael "Mike" Roland*

October 08, 2023 at 10:45 PM



“ *Charles Michael "Mike" Roland*

October 04, 2023 at 03:12 PM



“ *Rest in peace, Mike. I send my deepest condolences to your family and friends. Thank you for the professional opportunity that you gave me.*

- Jai Pathak, NRL, Mar. 2006- Aug.2008.

Jai - January 28, 2022 at 11:07 PM



“ *I remember how he would always do fun things for me and my cousins (Kayla, Hailey, Luke, Rachel, Izzy, Zoe, Regan, and Eli). I miss him so much!*

*-Kayla Roland
Mike's Granddaughter*

Kayla Roland - November 16, 2021 at 01:18 PM

BS

“ *Dear Carol and family
Our deepest condolences to you and the
entire Roland family regarding the passing of
Mike. We are so sorry for not being able to
attend his service, if there is anything that we
can do for you or the family please reach out
Kathy and Barry Sheldon*



barry sheldon - October 20, 2021 at 05:30 AM

MH

“ *Dear Carol and family,
So sorry to hear of Mike's passing. Our deepest sympathies are
with you at this time. Sending love and prayers during this difficult
time. Know that he is at peace and is now with the Lotd.
With love,
Mari Procopio Hertzberg and family*

Mari Hertzberg - October 19, 2021 at 08:44 AM

MP

“ Dear Carol & family:

My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time of your great loss of your beloved husband and father, Charles Michael (Mike) Roland. He is now safe in God's loving hands enjoying the rewards of his life well-lived.

Dr. Charles Michael Roland (Mike) was a scholarly giant in his field of Polymer Physics, earning numerous Awards and Honors. He stood out, opening doors of knowledge and opportunity to all who were privileged to know him. His legacy to the world of rubber and glassy polymers is rich; and his scientific contributions great, but above all we remember his generous and humble character. We shall greatly miss him. May he now rest eternally in peace.

Maria D. Ellul

Maria D. Ellul, Ph.D. - October 18, 2021 at 11:09 AM

AO

“ We are saddened at the news of Mike's passing. Words fail to express our deep sorrow for your loss. We are holding your family in our hearts and lifting you in prayer. Wishing you strength and comfort through this challenging time. ~ Allan and Meg Overbey

Allan Overbey - October 14, 2021 at 09:31 AM

DT

“ Please except my condolences , prayers and comfort to all family and friends. It was a great pleasure playing along side Michael.

Daniel Tyler - October 13, 2021 at 03:09 PM

AS

“ Dear Carol and Family,

Please accept my heartfelt condolences for Mike's passing. One of the proudest moments I knew as Mike's Branch head at NRL was when he won the E.O. Hulbert Award, NRL's highest science honor, and I had the honor to deliver the address celebrating his achievement. Mike was not only the scientific polestar for the entire Chemistry Division, he was also a wonderful guy whom I'm privileged to have called friend.

In sympathy,

Andrew Saab

Andrew Saab - October 13, 2021 at 12:47 PM

JM

“ *My sincerest condolences to Mike's wife, Carol, and the rest of his family, friends and acquaintances on his passing. I met Mike in 5th grade at McGalliard Elementary School in 1962. While we lost touch following high school graduation in 1970, I hold fond, warm memories of the eight years we were acquainted. My sympathies....*



Jim Mulholland, Milton DE

Jim Mulholland - October 12, 2021 at 11:20 PM

JS

“ *Our hearts and prayers are with Carol and family. Mike was a great neighbor of 30 years and always had a wave and a smile for us. He will be truly missed.*

Mike and Jan Stephanson

Jan Stephanson - October 12, 2021 at 04:20 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Charles Michael "Mike" Roland.*



October 12, 2021 at 12:32 PM



“ *Your glennon relatives purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Charles Michael "Mike" Roland.*



Your glennon relatives - October 11, 2021 at 02:18 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Charles Michael "Mike" Roland.*



October 11, 2021 at 09:07 AM



“ *Mike was a giant. I knew him first as a brilliant scientist and later as a pillar to the scientific community and a man with a deeply held faith. The wisdom, integrity, excellence and steadiness he brought to everything he touched was a bright light for many. We will miss you Mike.*

Will Mars - October 10, 2021 at 09:47 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Charles Michael "Mike" Roland.*



October 10, 2021 at 04:30 PM



“ *Debbie purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Charles Michael "Mike" Roland.*



Debbie - October 09, 2021 at 12:10 PM



“ *I am writing this with tears in my eyes. Mike will be greatly missed by the many folks who interacted with him across his amazing career. Mike made a huge impact on polymer physics and rubber science, while always being kind, professional, and generous with his time. Please take some time to look at his contributions to the scientific literature here:*

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=lqDPMikAAAAJ&hl>

I strive to be the type of mentor that Mike was to me. I only spent two years as a postdoc in his polymer physics group at the Naval Research Lab, but Mike continued to be a supporter, collaborator, and friend for 21 years after that.

Rest in peace, Mike.

Chris Robertson

Chris Robertson - October 09, 2021 at 12:01 PM

DG

“ *My brother was too young to leave this world. He was a brilliant man, and I will truly miss him so much. He has gained his wings and is at peace now. I love you and will miss you Mike.*

Deborah Gogan - October 09, 2021 at 11:33 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Charles Michael "Mike" Roland.*



October 08, 2021 at 05:49 PM