Dr. Robert Hayward Thompson

THOMPSON, Dr. Robert Hayward Dr. Robert Hayward Thompson, 69, passed away on Sunday, (October 9, 2005) at home with his family by his side after a six-month battle with leukemia. Born in Batavia, NY on March 31, 1936, he was the son of Robert Long and Margaret Hayward Thompson. Bob earned his Bachelor's, Master's and Ph.D. at New York University. A "Renaissance Man" in his own right, his passion was robotics and he built his first robot, "Topsy", in 1962. He went to work at Bell Laboratories upon graduation, eventually leaving this position for academia. The family moved to New Britain, where Bob began a long and distinguished career as a Professor of Industrial Technology at Central Connecticut State University. He taught electronics and robotics for over 32 years, breaking new ground in the field of autonomous robots and winning numerous awards for his design and implementation of mobile robots. Upon retirement, Bob transferred his inventiveness and creativity serving as a volunteer in the Exhibitions Department at Mystic Seaport. Bob thoroughly enjoyed the physics of flight, and his love for flying led him to secure his pilot's license. After years of exploring the United States on cross-country camping trips, the family then turned to sailing. Avid sailors and cruisers, Bob and his wife Fi recently completed their dream voyage down the ICW from Stonington to the Keys. He is survived by his beloved wife of 45 years, Fiammetta Paula Santelli Thompson, and by his five adoring children and their spouses, Robin Grimsley of Stonington, Jayne and Mark Dadmun of Knoxville, TN, Christie and Lance Becker of Stonington, Robert J. Thompson also of Stonington, and Jon-Paul and Cathy Thompson of South Windsor. He will also be sadly missed by his seven grandchildren. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, October 15, at Mystic Congregational Church, 43 E. Main Street in Mystic, at 10 a.m. The burial will take place at a later date at the Thompson family plot in Toledo, OH. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions may be made in Bob's memory to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, 6701 Baum Drive, Building B, Suite 240, Knoxville, TN 37919. Mystic Funeral Home, Route 1, Mystic is in charge of arrangements.

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