Van Angello Keriakos

Air Force Officer, Program Manager

Van Angello Keriakos, 73, a retired Air Force navigator and civilian defense program manager, died of cancer April 24 at the Johnson Center health-care facility at Falcons Landing in Sterling, where he lived.

Mr. Keriakos was born in Zanesville, Ohio, and moved to Washington in 1942. He graduated from Central High School and George Washington University.

He joined the Air Force in 1948, initially as a Greek interpreter. Later he became a navigator. He was posted in Massachusetts, the state of Washington and Japan.

In 1953, he left active duty but was an Air Force Reserve navigator until his final military retirement as a lieutenant colonel in 1989. This included periodic duty assignments at Andrews Air Force Base and Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, and in Greenland, Europe, North Africa, Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia, Vietnam and Central America.

In civilian life, he was a program manager for the building of flight simulators for defense contractors, including Sperry Corp., Westinghouse and Page Communications, and the Melpar division of E-Systems, from which he retired in 1995.

Mr. Keriakos was an early Reston resident and was active in community associations.

He was a deacon and elder at National Presbyterian Church in Washington.

His marriage to Mary Jane Delardos ended in divorce.

Survivors include his wife, Kim Waters Keriakos of Sterling; three daughters from his first marriage, Susan Lewis of Colorado Springs, Paula Veevers of Sterling and Vanessa Reyda of Herndon; a sister, Mary K. Cheakalos of Potomac; a brother, Gus V. Keriakos of Germantown; and seven grandchildren.