



Joseph Charles Plunkett Ph.D. P.E.

December 3, 1933 - June 9, 2013

Joseph Charles Plunkett Ph.D, P.E., 79 of Black Rock; died suddenly Sunday June 9, 2013 at Lake Charles State Park.

Born December 3, 1933 in Centerville, TN; son of Harold and Lorraine Lewis Plunkett.

He is preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Malcolm L Plunkett.

His educational experience was a Ph. D. in Electrical Engineering, Texas A&M University; MSEE Electrical Engineering, Georgia Tech; BSEE Electrical Engineering, University of Tennessee; BS Mathematics and Physics, Middle Tennessee State University; Graduate work at John Hopkins University, Northeastern University, and Florida Institute of Technology. He worked several years as a development engineer in the defense industry at Martin Marietta Corporation, Raytheon Company, and the IIT Research Institute. His accomplishments in the industry and education are documented in numerous international publications, including Marquis' Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in America, and the International Book of Honor, and he had received numerous professional and teaching honors and awards.

He was a Captain during fifteen years of service in the Army Reserve/National Guard; and he worked as a Registered Professional Electrical Engineer and a retired Professor of Electrical Engineering at California State University in

Fresno, CA; he was also of the Church of Christ belief.

Survivors include his brother, Lloyd Donald Plunkett of Centerville, TN; several nieces and nephews; special friends, Mr. and Mrs. James Houston of Black Rock; and many other relatives and friends.

His Epitaph;

He laid his life on Heaven's deck. And could feel God's smile calm his fear.
Just a ramblin' wreck from Georgia Tech. And a heck of an engineer!

Memorial service will be announced later by family.

Tribute Wall

RO

“ He was a sharp hard working man, and that's why I'd pick his classes at Fresno State when I could. It was funny, he'd come to class pick up the chalk (yes, chalk) and write as fast as he could for the full hour. Dust flying. At the end he would slap his hands together like a baseball pitcher with a rosin bag. He was hard but very fair. Always learned alot. I was there in 1983 - he must be special since I still think of him 45 years later. I wish I could have spent time with him. -Ron

Ron - August 22, 2025 at 03:31 PM



“ Joseph Charles Plunkett Ph.D. P.E.

January 29, 2023 at 08:29 AM

MA

Hello,
My name is Massoud Saboury, graduated from Fresno State in 1981, worked for 39 years and just retired. I had Dr. plunkett in 1980 and 1981. He was one of the best professors if not the best professor I had during my college years undergraduate and graduate! He spent so much time with us guiding us on our courses and on our projects. We felt welcome in his classes. I was looking him up to maybe give him a visit, unfortunately I found out he has left us. The person he was I know he's in heavens. Thanks for everything you did for us. God bless your sole.

Massoud - October 18, 2024 at 01:05 PM

DS


I might have known you at Fresno State. I was there at the same time. My name: David Schmiedeberg. Plunkett was a good teacher. Do you remember Dennis Hagopian and Irv Kral, both EE professors at Fresno State?

david schmiedeberg - November 10, 2025 at 11:59 PM

PS

“ *Dr Plunkett was the reason I chose to attend Fresno State University as an Electrical Engineering student. I graduated in May of 1988 and I think about him to this day. He was my favorite professor and was Dept chair when I was at the University. I am from San Diego and chose to go to CSUF because of him. For our Sr project we transmitted Waylon Jennings on an AM transmitter circuit to pass his lab final. He kept that record player with Waylon in the lab. When I hear the song I think of him and Georgia Tech which he used to talk about in class. I had him for several classes including upper division electives in EE. I have had a 30+ year career as an RF Engineer and I work for Motorola. Dr Plunkett, you are in my heart. I am very sad. God Bless you and your family.*

Pat Sparks - March 01, 2019 at 09:41 PM

 Donald Kinney

“ *My name is Donald Kinney. My mother was Martha (Harrison) Kinney, daughter of Louise Lewis Harrison (sister to Joseph's mother, Lorraine) and cousin to Joseph. Seven years older than my mother, she told me Cousin Joe was the only one who would let her win at checkers. I would love to know more about his life and work. kinneys@me.com*

Donald Kinney - March 01, 2019 at 05:57 PM

DP

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Donna Pitman - June 11, 2013 at 07:37 AM



My name is Donald Kinney. My mother was Martha (Harrison) Kinney, daughter of Louise Lewis Harrison (sister to Joseph's mother, Lorraine) and cousin to Joseph. Seven years older than my mother, she told me Cousin Joe was the only one who would let her win at checkers. I would love to know more about his life and work. kinneys@me.com

Donald Kinney - March 01, 2019 at 05:57 PM