

Elias Snitzer



Dr. Elias Snitzer

WELLESLEY - Dr. Elias Snitzer, of Brookline, MA formerly of Wellesley, May 21, 2012. Dr. Snitzer was a pioneer in the field of laser glass research. He demonstrated the first optical fiber laser in 1961 and his visionary inventions include both neodymium-and erbium-doped laser glass. In another far-reaching discovery that preceded today's communication devices by 30 years, Snitzer co-developed the first fiber optic laser amplifier with laser glass. He held numerous groundbreaking patents and received several awards for his exemplary work in the field of lasers and fiber optics including the Otto Schott Research Award, the Charles Hard Townes Award, and the Rank Prize in Opto-Electronics. Dr. Snitzer received his undergraduate degree from Tufts University and his doctorate in physics from the University of Chicago. His career spanned over four decades in industry and academia. He held research and teaching positions at American

Optical, Rutgers University, Honeywell, Lowell Tech, United Technologies, and Polaroid.

In addition to his distinguished professional career, Dr. Snitzer was a devoted family man. He was the beloved husband of the late Dr. Shirley (Wood) Snitzer. Loving father of Sandra and Michael Tristano of Chicago, IL, Barbara and Edward Konowicz of Virginia Beach, VA, Peter Snitzer and Geri Weis of Solon, OH, Helen and Alan Paret of Newton, MA, and Louis and Carol Snitzer of Sydney, Australia. Also survived by his grandchildren: Leanna, Glenn, Jeff, Mike, Emily, Ben, Daniel, Kirsten, Matt and Amy; and great-grandchildren: Killian, Mikah, Tyler, Logan and Theodore as well as many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his brother, Saul Snitzer. Dr. Snitzer was also a proud veteran of the [United States Navy](#), having served during WWII.

A Memorial Service will be held at the Henry J. Burke & Sons Funeral Home, 56 Washington St. (Rte 16) WELLESLEY HILLS, on Saturday, May 26 at 12 PM. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend. In lieu of flowers, donations in Dr. Snitzer's memory may be made to the [American Heart Association](#) at [www.heart.org](#).

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