



Dr. John Robert Monnier

February 5, 1948 - April 6, 2024

Dr. John Robert Monnier, 76, of Columbia, died on Saturday, April 6, 2024. Born in Quincy, IL, on February 5, 1948, he was a son of the late John Edward and Bonnye Gayle Steimer Monnier. He grew up on a farm, the second of nine children in rural Basco, Illinois. John earned his BS in Chemistry from St. Ambrose College in Davenport, IA, and later his PhD in Physical Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. Milwaukee was where he first fell in love with sailing and being on the water, a passion that led to years of boat ownership on Lake Ontario and, later, in Savannah, Georgia. Dr. Monnier was a research scientist at Eastman Kodak in Rochester, NY from 1978 to 1993 and later at Eastman Chemical Research Laboratories in Kingsport, TN from 1993-2004. In 2004, Dr. Monnier shifted from industry to academics, becoming a Professor of Chemical Engineering at the University of South Carolina, where he was still working until his death. Dr. Monnier truly enjoyed mentoring and being part of the lives of numerous undergraduate, graduate, and post-doctoral students over the past 20 years. He has published over 100 journal articles and holds over 30 U.S. Patents. In 2017, he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, a huge honor.

John loved his family, never missing an opportunity to show how proud he was of them. He also loved spoiling and (over) feeding his dogs, Bruno and Ollie. He had a great sense of humor and warmth and enjoyed nothing more than catching up with old friends and family over drinks and a good meal, retelling and embellishing misadventures and laughing loudly. John could start a conversation with anyone at any time and under any circumstance. John was a beloved and engaged grandfather to his six grandchildren, always interested in talking and playing with them. He was his kids' and grandkids' biggest cheerleader. He was an excellent storyteller, regaling his suburban-raised kids and grandkids with stories from his childhood on a farm, the best of which involved a very angry bull named Sunny Boy. John was a very committed, but frequently disappointed, Buffalo Bills fan. He had a fierce work ethic and sense of responsibility but maintained humility. He was whip-smart and loved to solve problems, whether fixing a lawnmower, building a new reactor for his laboratory, working through a new catalytic process, or helping his son-in-law on home maintenance projects over FaceTime.

Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Pamela (Pam) Monnier; daughter, Dr. Susanne Cabrera (Jose), of Wauwatosa, WI; sons, Philip Monnier (Monica), of Oak Park, IL and Stephen Monnier (Calli), of Verona, WI; grandchildren, Lucas Cabrera, Simon Cabrera, Margot Cabrera, Fern Monnier, Juniper Monnier, Sylvie Monnier; siblings, Stephen Monnier, of Tucson, AZ, David Monnier, of Savannah, TN, Mary Reed, of Quincy, IL, LouAnn Metternich, of Nauvoo, IL, and Nancy Halpin, of Bethlehem, PA; as well as a host of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Daniel Monnier, of Grapevine, TX, Paul Monnier of Warsaw, IL, and Mark Monnier, of Mammoth Cave, KY.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Mr. Monnier will be held at 10 o'clock on Monday, April 15th at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 100 Polo Rd, Columbia, SC. The family will receive friends from 4 until 6 o'clock, Sunday evening, at Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel, 7600 Trenholm Road Ext., Columbia.

Memorials may be made to FSHD Society at www.fshdsociety.org.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **14.** 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel
7600 Trenholm Road Extension
Columbia, SC 29223

Mass of Christian Burial

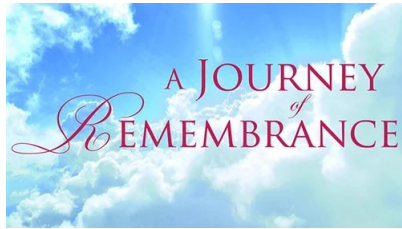
APR **15.** 10:00 AM (ET)

St. John Neumann Catholic Church
100 Polo Rd
Columbia, SC 29223

Tribute Wall



“ *Shives Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. John Robert Monnier*



Shives Funeral Home - April 13 at 02:12 PM

DV

“ *We remember our good times working at Kodak Rochester, skiing and camping with John and Pam. Our prayers for Pam and all John's family.*
Dick and Barbara Vinal

Dick and Barbara Vinal - May 04 at 02:01 PM

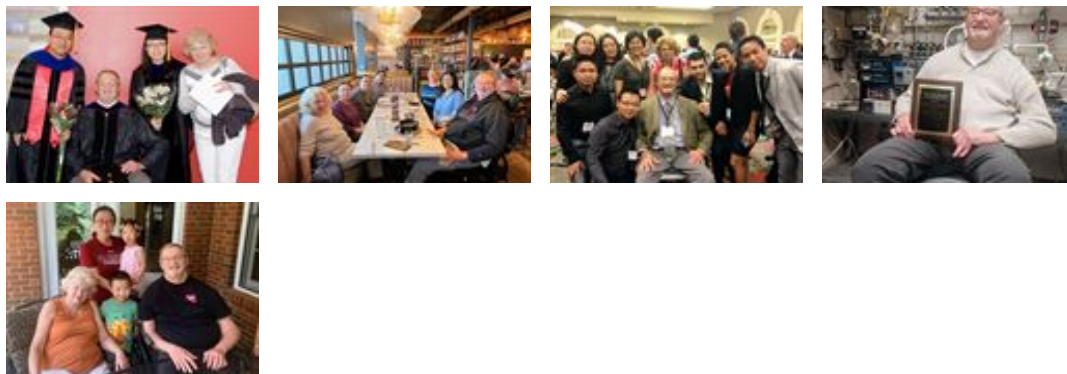
KO

“ *John Monnier was a bright star! A virtuous soul who cared a lot! One of the last few remaining titans in the field on catalysis, whose name was up there with Nobel prize winners. May he rest in Peace!*
Konstantin

Konstantin - April 15 at 06:35 PM



“ *6 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Shives Funeral Home - April 14 at 11:24 AM

JL

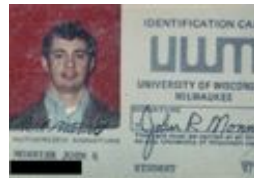
“ Dear Pam and Monnier family,
 The news of John's passing certainly produced a flood of emotion and memories for me. I recall the day I met John at a conference. He had just given a keynote address on the fantastic research he pioneered at Eastman. Later that day I introduced myself, and he immediately asked me: "Lockemeyer - is your dad a dentist?" Clearly this was an unusual question to receive at a catalysis conference, but he went on to explain that during his days at Kodak and the family in Fairport, NY - indeed my dad was the Monnier family dentist. This of course led to some drinks and trading many memories of our days in God's country - Upstate New York. Since then it has been my pleasure to connect with John more regularly, especially in recent years in some collaborative efforts between Shell and USC. Each time he flashed that contagious smile it made me think he really made the most of my dad's work. John had a great sense of humor and was always good company. In another connection between us I recently had the pleasure of giving a lecture at my alma mater - Villanova University. This came by way of an invitation from Weijian Diao - one of John's former graduate students who also studied in the field of epoxidation catalysis. So John had also enriched my life through his academic legacy. In the week preceding his passing I had asked John for a list of his publications and patents I could include in a review paper, since his work in non-allylic olefin epoxidation was recognized as industry leading and I want to make certain that is properly credited. He quickly replied to my request and provided quite some references - something we traded jabs about via email (his were always engaging and included something fun or interesting beyond the topic at hand). Now the honor to recognize his legacy is even more pressing. John was an accomplished scientist and a wonderful colleague. He will be missed. Blessings to you and your family,

John Lockemeyer

John Lockemeyer - April 14 at 01:21 AM



“ 99 files added to the album LifeTributes



Shives Funeral Home - April 13 at 02:07 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. John Robert Monnier.



April 12 at 06:52 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. John Robert Monnier.



April 12 at 06:47 PM

MB

“ Monnier Family,
Extremely saddened to hear Prof. Monnier loss. I have known him since the 1980s/90s as our interests in epoxidation chemistry brought us together. We were both in industry, John with Eastman and me with Union Carbide. We met each other at many ACS meetings as well as North American Catalysis Society meetings. We were both interested in using sound fundamentals(chemistry and chemical engineering) to develop valuable commercial technologies. More recently we got to know each other working on a project together in his Labs. I got to know his great sense of humor firsthand as a participant in the CeRCaS program and especially in our regular weekly project team meetings. When we meet, I will share his joke about the “landing strip running short”. He left way too soon; I will miss him remember him forever. He will be remembered as one of the highly distinguished scientist/engineer, totally committed to advancing science/engineering and educating younger, next generation. I visited his research group in USC and was fortunate enough to have several dinners together along with Pam. My wife Anna and I convey our sincerest condolences to Pam and the extended Monnier family. May Lord give you all the strength to bear this tremendous loss.
Madan and Anna Bhasin



Madan M Bhasin - April 12 at 05:28 PM

MB

“ Madan and Anna Bhasin purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Dr. John Robert Monnier.



Madan and Anna Bhasin - April 12 at 05:14 PM

AK

“ Alexander K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. John Robert Monnier.

Alexander K. - April 12 at 12:12 AM

DM

“ Donna Chen & Micky and Alex Myrick planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. John Robert Monnier.

Donna Chen & Micky and Alex Myrick - April 11 at 11:20 PM

DM

“ Donna Chen & Micky and Alex Myrick purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Dr. John Robert Monnier.



Donna Chen & Micky and Alex Myrick - April 11 at 11:20 PM

DG

“ So many stories I could tell. Moon was one of those people you were glad that God put in your path. Every time I hear Moon Shadow I will think of him. Rest in peace my dear friend.

Diane Gooding - April 11 at 02:04 PM

DG

“ Diane G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. John Robert Monnier.

Diane G. - April 11 at 01:58 PM

TF

“ The Cotter Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. John Robert Monnier.

The Cotter Family - April 11 at 01:47 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Dr. John Robert Monnier.



April 11 at 01:47 PM

NB

“ Ngoc B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. John Robert Monnier.

Ngoc B. - April 11 at 11:07 AM

KJ

“ Koichi SEGAWA, PhD, Japan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. John Robert Monnier.

Koichi SEGAWA, PhD, Japan - April 10 at 08:49 PM

KJ

“ Koichi SEGAWA, PhD, Japan purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. John Robert Monnier.



Koichi SEGAWA, PhD, Japan - April 10 at 08:49 PM

FG

“ From: DBHS '98 Group planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. John Robert Monnier.

From: DBHS '98 Group - April 10 at 02:34 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. John Robert Monnier.*



April 10 at 02:34 PM

JF

“ *Jim, Diane, Carolyn, Sara and families purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Dr. John Robert Monnier.*



Jim, Diane, Carolyn, Sara and families - April 10 at 08:28 AM

UE

“ *USC Department of Chemical Engineering planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. John Robert Monnier.*

USC Department of Chemical Engineering - April 09 at 05:38 PM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Dr. John Robert Monnier.*



April 09 at 05:38 PM

JE

“ *John T., Saqib P., Haiying Z., Kevin E. purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Dr. John Robert Monnier.*



John T., Saqib P., Haiying Z., Kevin E. - April 09 at 12:04 PM

LF

“ LouAnn & David Metternich and Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Dr. John Robert Monnier.



LouAnn & David Metternich and Family - April 09 at 11:14 AM

DR

“ Dr. And Mrs. James Ritter purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. John Robert Monnier.



Dr. And Mrs. James Ritter - April 09 at 10:24 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dr. John Robert Monnier.



April 08 at 10:10 PM

TG

“ Phil and Family, I'm so very sorry to hear of John's passing. He did so much for me personally and professionally, and I am truly forever indebted. I can't emphasize enough how he took time to tutor and encourage people like me to be the best. I learned and developed more from from his guidance in 2 short years than my entire grad school career. My family is praying for you guys and I hope the peace that is in Christ Jesus will help you through this time.

Travis & Lauren Gott - April 08 at 08:18 PM

AR

“ I was in Phil's year in high school, and I remember Mr. Monnier letting me tape songs off his records and watching him change Susie's brake pads in the driveway. He was such a patient guy for having a bunch of teenagers hanging out at his house yelling at video games. His memory is a blessing.

Ann Rasmussen - April 08 at 01:48 PM

SB

“ Dr. Monnier will be fondly remembered as a knowledgeable and inspiring teacher, with a deep appreciation for life. He generously devoted his time to mentoring students and was a captivating speaker and storyteller. His ability to connect with people of all ages was remarkable, fostering camaraderie and laughter. I recall inviting him to speak on "achieving a fulfilling career in industry" and his address was so well-received that we ran out of chairs and snacks for the eager attendees. May his memory continue to inspire and bless us all.



Sina Behtash - April 08 at 09:30 AM

SB

“ Sina & April Behtash purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Dr. John Robert Monnier.



Sina & April Behtash - April 08 at 09:26 AM

RM

“ Ralph & Marjorie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. John Robert Monnier.

Ralph & Marjorie - April 07 at 08:10 PM



“ Thoughts & Prayers Sympathy Gift Box was purchased for the family of Dr. John Robert Monnier.



April 07 at 08:10 PM

MN

“ Dr. Monnier lit up the 3rd floor of Swearingen Engineering Center like the sun at noon on a famously hot Carolina day. He made it fun to work. He brought treats for Fannie and Frost and loved all dogs. Who needed Google? HE KNEW EVERYTHING. He loved working with young people. He loved his family. He brought the party. I guess the Lord could not wait any longer.

Marjorie Nichoson - April 07 at 08:06 PM

AJ

“ Anne Gaffney & JimHorgan purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Dr. John Robert Monnier.



Anne Gaffney & JimHorgan - April 07 at 03:21 PM