

Statement from the family of Wooyoung Lee:

Wooyoung Lee passed away on Saturday, May 14, 2022, at the age of 84. Wooyoung was born in Jinju, South Korea in 1938 to parents Jong Soon Lee and Sook Ja Kim. He received his BS degree from Seoul National University in 1961 before emigrating to the United States in 1962. He earned his MS (1964) and PhD (1966) in Chemical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin and subsequently received an ABA degree from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1981.

Wooyoung joined Mobil Corporation (now ExxonMobil) in 1966 as a research engineer and was eventually promoted to manager of Mobil's Princeton Laboratory in 1984. During this time, he was the head of Mobil's Synthetic Fuels Development Division, during which the company's methanol-to-gasoline process was successfully developed and commercialized in New Zealand. In 1986, Wooyoung assumed the R/D responsibility for the Petrochemicals Division and managed the Edison Research Laboratory until his retirement in 2000. Under his leadership, significant technology development was achieved in the areas of ethylene polymerization. Several improved processes and advanced catalysts were also successfully commercialized.

During his 34 years at Mobil, Wooyoung obtained 13 U.S. Patents, had 31 journal publications, and frequently spoke at lectures and seminars. He received the Best Paper Award for Coal Conversion Technology in 1983 and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Engineering College of Seoul National University in 1999..

In 1985, Wooyoung became involved with the Philip Jaisohn Foundation, an organization committed to providing health care, education and other social services to the Asian American immigrant community in the Philadelphia metropolitan area. Wooyoung joined the Board in 1986, served as Chairman of the Board from 1992-1997, and remained active as a board leader until his death in 2022.

Despite his long battle with Parkinson's disease, Wooyoung lived an active life. He loved golf, traveling, and spending time with his family. He was an eternal optimist and never lost his sense of humor. Wooyoung is survived by his wife June Ja, his two daughters Marjorie and Christina, and his four grandchildren: William, Katherine, Madeline and Jin Woo.