

The Cordage Institute Mourns the Passing of Past President, Sim Whitehill

It is with much sadness that the Cordage Institute acknowledges the passing of one of its past leaders, Sim Whitehill. Sim joined the Cordage Institute in 1994, was first elected to the Board of Directors in 1997, served as President from 2001 to 2005, and continued to actively serve on the Board of Directors until 2008. In 2019, Sim was presented with the Gale Foster Award of Merit for his many contributions to the organization and to the industry. He was respected for his technical expertise as much as his community spirit and willingness to work with others within the industry. Beyond his years of tremendous service to the cordage industry, he was a vibrant member of his community. Sim will be missed by the many lives he has touched.

Albert Simeon Whitehill was born on November 4th 1937, as the youngest of five children to George and Mary Whitehill of Butler, Pennsylvania. Sim was raised in a devout Catholic family in which he revered his father and loved his mother. He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from St. Vincent College in Latrobe, PA and went on to study mechanical engineering at the Pennsylvania State University. During his time at Penn State, Sim met Victoria Pezzuto from Linden, NJ who became the love of his life and wife of 61 years.

Sim started his professional career at Lord Manufacturing in Erie, Pennsylvania where he developed several patents. His inventions include recoil adapters for the ICBM Titan II missile silo and the Vulcan rotary canon used on the F4 Phantom; both of which are on display in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

While in Erie, Sim and Vicki started their family with the birth of their first two daughters. Later, Sim was transferred for work to the Philadelphia area where their son and third daughter were added to the beautiful family. Sim was an engaging father who was a spiritual role model, a patient math homework helper, and the contriver of a lifetime of happy, silly fun for his four children.

Sim accepted a position at Philadelphia Resins in Montgomeryville, PA in 1970. A few years later, the company acquired assets from a glass stranding company and formed a subdivision called Phillystran, of which Sim was chief engineer. Sim conducted some of the earliest trials using Kevlar in



ropes and envisioned the usage of high-performance synthetic strength members in many industries. He founded Whitehill Manufacturing in 1978 to specialize in the development of technical synthetic rope and since then his products have been used from the bottom of the ocean to the surface of Mars.

Sim was fond of saying, "I have lived the American dream." He always dreamed big, took risks, laughed often, and loved with all his heart. Sim was an enthusiastic golfer, extensive reader, avid Philadelphia Phillies fan and clever card player. He and Vicki shared these interests and their love of travel with their children and grandchildren.

Sim is survived by his wife Victoria Whitehill, his sister Georgeanne Hitzel, brother-in-law Joseph Hitzel, daughter Patricia Allan (Michael), daughter Virginia Guldi (Robert), son A. Simeon Whitehill Jr. (Tabitha), daughter Elizabeth Huntley (Mark) and grandchildren Patricia Allan Schreiber (Jack), Laura Allan, Sean Allan, Matthew Allan, Robert Guldi Jr., Mary Emma Guldi, C. Simeon Whitehill, Shane Huntley and Graham Huntley and numerous nieces and nephews.