



Richard Abbott Orth

September 7, 1927 - January 24, 2020

Richard “Dick” Abbott Orth, 92, of Village on the Green in Longwood passed away on January 24, 2020. Born September 7, 1927 in Piqua, Ohio to Richard Orth, Ohio State Bridge Engineer, and Mary Louise Abbott Orth, first female architect to graduate from the Ohio State University in Columbus Ohio. He graduated in 1948 with a BSEE degree from the Ohio State University.

Following graduation Dick worked at Betel Research Labs in Princeton NJ. In 1953, he was assigned as one of the 27 initial engineering members of a team for RCA, at ETR Cape Canaveral, with a specialty in Telemetry. He was instrumental in the technical development of the Range to Ascension Island. He was assigned by RCA to many projects at the Western Test Range and proud to have been a member of the Missile, Space, & Range Pioneers during the early days of the space program and to have his name on The SpaceWalk of Honor that encircles the reflective ponds adjacent to the Space Mirror Memorial and is in front of the NASA Educator Resource Center.

Dick was active in the Boy Scouts of America, and was an active member of the Participants Association at Walt Disney World. He was the Project manager for RCA Space Mountain at Walt Disney World and a consultant with GE Horizons (1983 to 1993) at Epcot.

He met his wife Sue Johnson, while working for RCA at Patrick Air Force

Base. They were married on January 18, 1959 at PAFB Chapel.

Dick is survived by his wife Sue of Longwood, sons Richard C. of Winter Springs, Stephen E. of Cocoa Florida and sister Mary Jane Orth Burton of Midland Park, NJ.

There will be no services at this time. Memorial donations may be made, in his memory, to The Astronauts Memorial Foundation. <https://www.amfcse.org/donate> or to the Brede-Wilkins Scholarship Fund at the Central Florida Foundation <https://cffound.org>