Dear GRC friends,

I am extremely saddened to share with you the news that Dr. Carl B. Storm, Director Emeritus of Gordon Research Conferences, died July 22, 2019, in Fredericksburg, MD.

Carl served as my immediate predecessor at GRC, spending 10 years (1993 – 2003) leading the organization. Carl was the founding chair of the Chemistry of Energetic Materials GRC in 1998 and during his time as GRC Director, Carl transitioned the organization from analog to digital, continued GRCs expansion to new sites in Europe and moved GRC operations to a new, environmentally friendly headquarters building in West Kingston, RI. Upon his retirement, the GRC Board of Trustees honored his service to the organization by bestowing his name on the Carl Storm Underrepresented Minorities Program and the Carl Storm International Diversity Program. Carl continued to visit his friends and colleagues at our offices, became a Master Gardener, volunteered at the annual plant sale run by the University of Rhode Island’s Master Gardener program and attended the Kingston Chamber Music Festival every summer before his relocation to Maryland.

We have sadly lost an important member of the GRC family, but we will remember Carl for his love of chemistry, his kindness towards the people with whom he worked and his passion for advancing the frontiers of science. Carl leaves behind lifelong friends and an important scientific legacy.

We will all miss him dearly.

Kind regards,
Nancy Ryan Gray, PhD, President and Chief Executive Officer

Carl’s obituary

Carlyle Bell Storm passed away on Monday, July 22, 2019. He was 84 years old. Carl is survived by two daughters, Carol Wilkinson (David) of Blackstone, VA and Christy Storm (Tom) of Frederick, MD; and 2 grandchildren, Ben and Jamie. He was predeceased by his son, Michael Frederick Storm.

Carl was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland where he developed an interest in chemistry at a young age. He earned a PhD in organic and biochemistry from Johns Hopkins University. He was a NIH Postdoctoral Fellow with Dr. Henry Taube at Stanford University and a Staff Fellow with Dr. Seymour Kaufman at the National Institute of Mental Health. Dr. Storm then joined the Chemistry Department at Howard University in Washington DC and rose through the ranks to Professor. He then worked at the Los Alamos National Laboratory where he became the chief scientist and program manager for technology development. He regularly participated in Gordon Research Conferences (GRC) and also founded and chaired the Energetic Materials Conference at GRC. He was the director of GRC for 10 years, retiring in 2003. GRC expanded across the US and the globe under his leadership. He was a strong advocate for graduate student participation at GRC. He was an American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow. Dr. Storm published nearly 80 papers, conference reports, and proceedings dealing with the various research interests he pursued.

Burial services are private. A memorial will be at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to your preferred organization.