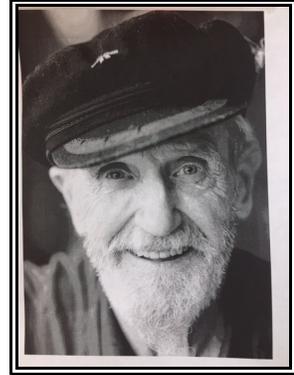


9/29/2017 Obituary of Dr. Charles M. Overby, Founder, Article 9 Society

Dr. Charles Overby, Emeritus Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Ohio University, a longtime Athens, Ohio, resident lately residing in Kennett Square, Pa., passed away peacefully at the age of 91, in West Chester, Pa. on Sept. 18, 2017.



Charles was born in Cascade, Mont., March 18, 1926, the fourth of six children, to Norwegian immigrant parents. As an adolescent, he fell in love with flying machines and joined the U.S. Army Air Corps at the end of World War II. He later served in the U.S. Air Force, piloting a B-29 bomber in the Korean War. These experiences had a profound impact on him, resulting in a lifelong commitment to trying to prevent war and resolving conflict through nonviolent means.

Through the GI Bill, Charles earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Minnesota, and a master's degree and Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. At the University of Minnesota he met and married Ruth, his wonderful wife of 64 years. Charles and Ruth had three daughters, Solveig, Kim, and Heidi. Most of Charles' professional life was spent at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, where he was a professor of industrial and systems engineering. After retirement, he became professor emeritus of engineering.

Charles challenged his students to consider the human beings who would make and utilize the products they were designing, as well as the broader environmental and social impact of technological innovation and resource utilization. In 1977-78 he and Ruth spent a sabbatical year with the U.S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment, working on resource conservation and environmental issues. In 1980, in recognition of his pioneering work in green technology and engineering policy, Charles was selected as the first faculty-in-residence for the national WISE program (Washington Internships for Students of Engineering), a program that focuses on engaging engineering students in public policy and which continues to this day.

Over their years together, Charles and Ruth were also very involved in a variety of peace and social justice activities. After his retirement, Charles formed the Article 9 Society in the United States, an organization that promoted peaceful conflict resolution based on the aspirational words of Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution which called for nations to renounce war as a sovereign right and to utilize nonviolent means for settling international disputes.

Charles traveled widely during his teaching career, sharing his engineering expertise and his message of peace to many international students and friends in Japan, Central America and China. Wherever he went, he also shared his origami paper cranes, and encouraged others to make these, as a simple, beautiful symbol of peace for all. Charles lived faithfully to his belief that learning never ends. He never lost his passion and curiosity for learning about all manner of things and was one of those rare individuals who could see connections between many areas of knowledge. He loved libraries and wrote

poetry. He also loved being in nature, riding his tractor and splitting & piling wood for winter nights by the wood stove.

In 2016 Charles and Ruth moved to the Friend's Home in Kennett Square, Pa., to live closer to their daughters. Charles peacefully passed away on Sept. 18, 2017, after a brief illness.

Charles was preceded in death by his parents, four of his five siblings, and a granddaughter (child of his daughter, Kim). In addition to his wife Ruth, he is survived by his brother, Dwaine Overby of Coon Rapids, Mn.; sister-in-law, Glenice Overby of Grand Junction, Co.; three daughters, Solveig Overby of Burlington, Vt., Kim Overby (Gary Koretzky) of Thornton, Pa., and Heidi (David) Overby-Lee of Severna Park, Md.; four grandchildren, Justin Overby-Lee of Rixeyville, Va., Maya Overby Koretzky of Baltimore, Md., Trevis Overby-Lee of Anza, Ca., and Kirsten Overby-Lee of Oak Harbor, Wa.; one great granddaughter, Ophelia Overby-Lee of Rixeyville, Va.; eight nieces and nephews: Clarence (Sharliene) Overby of Gillette, Wy., Marty (Trisha) Overby of Wake Forrest, NC., Viane(Tim) Hoefs of Coon Rapids, Mn.; Lanny Albaitis of Ludington, Mi.; Michael (Cindy) Albaitis of Lapeer, Mi., Jim (Linda) Albaitis of Ludington, Mi, Karen (John) Boortz of Chetek, Wi. and Murial White of Surprise, Az.; and several grandnieces and grandnephews

His family, misses Charles greatly, but will continue to honor his life by striving to leave the world a better place through caring for others and the environment. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that gifts be made to one of the following organizations, which were dear to Charles: Veterans for Peace, <https://www.veteransforpeace.org>; American Friends Service Committee, <https://www.afsc.org>; the Ohio University Alden Library in support of either the "The Overby, Katsumori, Ichioka Article 9 Without Borders & Green Technology by Design Endowment" or the "University Libraries Endowment", [www.ohio.edu/give](http://www.ohio.edu/give) . (Choose "Give now." The Library Endowment is listed under "Choose a fund." To donate to the Overby, Katsumori, Ichioka ... endowment, check "the fund I want to support isn't listed above" and enter the endowment's full name.)

One of Charles' poems is provided here:

#### UNFETTEREDNESS

Eagles soaring on winds swept up treeless hills  
Of brown summer grass or, climbing in thermal drafts  
Over broiling prairies -- To be one with the wind,  
Freed from tugs of earth to wheel and swing  
In wild abandon with exuberant spontaneity  
Through mansions of air -- Eyes of a 10-year-old  
Childhood dreams of eagles' views of earth.  
Chuck Overby, 6/25/78



Sept. 17, 2017 - Three Pennies