

## Passing of a Pioneer: SVU Mourns the Passing of Donald W. Baker



The ultrasound community has lost one of its most visionary, practical, and dynamic leaders. Donald W. Baker, BSEE, died on February 27, 2018. Baker was an internationally recognized luminary who applied his knowledge of radar signals acquired during his Air Force service to the development of pulsed Doppler technology used in nearly every duplex ultrasound instrument used today. Baker was recognized for his lifelong contributions to the field of diagnostic ultrasound with SVU's highest recognition, the Pioneer Award, in 2000, and was similarly honored by the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM) in 1987.

Don Baker was born in Skagway, Alaska on April 12, 1932. Following four years of Air Force service during the Korean War, he entered the University of Washington, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. His accomplishments, designed with the goal of taking science from the research platform to the patient care arena, were numerous and remarkable. His pioneering work in the field of Doppler ultrasound led to the development and ultimate production of the first commercial Doppler for medical use. Most SVU members have used instrumentation developed by ATL (Advanced Technology Laboratories), a business venture co-founded by to transfer the Doppler research product into commercially viable instrumentation. Few engineering devices have had such a significant impact on patient care and management.

Don's contributions are well documented throughout scientific publications and the ultrasound community. He authored the landmark articles: "A phase coherent pulse Doppler system for cardiovascular measurement" in 1967 followed by "Pulsed Ultrasonic Blood Flow Sensing" in 1969. He received the University of Washington's Alumnus Summa Laude Dignatus Award in 2002 and was an inaugural inductee into the Washington Life Science Hall of Fame in 2016. In addition to his initial landmark scientific articles, Baker authored over 30 articles and book chapters. His remarkable achievements also include several important patents. The Smithsonian Museum of American Medical History houses continuous wave and pulsed wave Doppler instruments developed by Baker.

One of his greatest accomplishments, however, was his marriage to Joan Baker, the recognized 'matriarch' of diagnostic ultrasound, who was founder & first president of the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (SDMS), and first Chair of the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS). Their partnership was dynamic, making them the unofficial "first family" of Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Both Bakers have been staunch supporters of SVU, often participating in research and

educational programs. The impact of their service cannot be measured! Joan Baker resides in Redmond, WA, near their four children.