

Charles Carter Holt

Charles Carter Holt, passed away peacefully on December 13, at his home in Austin, Texas. Brought up in Florida, Dr. Holt had degrees in electrical engineering from MIT. After the war, he entered the field of economics, believing that he could better make a difference in one of the two big problems he saw facing the country, economic well-being and war. He earned a Ph.D. in 1955 from the University of Chicago. Charley was part of the growth of the field as it developed new quantitative tools for prediction, business management and analysis of business data. As a young economist in the 1950s, he worked with a group of a group of economists who would become distinguished (himself, Franco Modigliani, John Muth and Herbert Simon) at the Graduate School of Industrial Administration (GSIA) at Carnegie Mellon University. They developed quantitative and computerized decision methods for business and industry. He believed that, “[l]ooking back, all members of the team would likely agree that their GSIA years were among the most interesting and exciting of their careers.” He went on to work at the London School of Economics, the University of Wisconsin, the Urban Institute, and the University of Texas, McCombs School of Business. His work encompassed a wide range, including working on a quantitative model of the US economy, the relationship between inflation and the rate of unemployment, and artificial intelligence. During his retirement he worked on a theory of trading. He retained his fascination with economics to the end of his life as he sought to understand the reasons for the current recession. Charley was also blessed with a rich family life. He met his first wife, Mary, at the University of Chicago, and they had three children, Wendy, Thea and Steve Holt. After the sudden loss of Mary in 1983, Charley was fortunate to find a second wife, Ann Gardner, who was his companion and at the end his loving caretaker, ensuring that even with significant health problems, Charley had a rich and active life. With this marriage, Charley gained a stepson, Jim Gardner, who, with his children, Ano and Koa, were a consistent part of his life. Charley is survived by Ann Gardner, Wendy Holt and Wendy’s children, Meg and Ken Anderson, Thea Holt, Steve Holt, and James Gardner.