Dr. Frederick A. Tarantino passed away on June 9, 2014. A Mass open to all visitors will be held on Tuesday, June 17 at the Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Annandale, VA at 10:30a.m. A veteran burial ceremony will be held at a later date at the Arlington National Cemetery.

As USRA President and CEO from 2006 to 2014, Dr. Tarantino made a lasting imprint on USRA. The impact of his work in vitalizing USRA’s government sponsored science programs cannot be overstated. FY2013 was the best year for USRA it its history. Dr. Tarantino positioned USRA for a bright and long-term future. As president of USRA, Dr. Tarantino managed a wide array of research activities and programs spanning the disciplines in space science and technology: astronomy and astrophysics, life sciences, Earth sciences, microgravity, computer sciences, space technology, advanced concepts, and space nuclear power.

Dr. Tarantino previously served in many prestigious roles including as Principal Associate Director for Weapons Programs at Los Alamos National Laboratory, as Principal Vice President of Bechtel National, Inc., the government contracting arm of Bechtel Group, and he served as defense liaison to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy from 1992-1995. Dr. Tarantino also proudly served in the U.S. Army with his last active duty assignment as Chief, Air and Missile Defense Branch in the Office of the Secretary of the Army. Dr. Tarantino received his B.S. degree in Physics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, a M.S. in Nuclear Science from the Air Force Institute of Technology, a Ph.D. in Nuclear Reactor Physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and he is a graduate of the Wharton Business School’s Advanced Management Program.

Flowers can be sent to the Mass at 5121 Woodland Way, Annandale, VA 22003; phone: 703-978-8074