

David Lee Auton, Ph.D.



David Lee Auton was born in Lexington, Kentucky in 1939. He received B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago, specializing in nuclear physics. He was an internationally known career scientist with the Department of Defense, working as the chief of the Nuclear Radiation Division at the Defense Nuclear Agency. His theoretical work was influential in nuclear modeling and nuclear threat reduction, and he led the development of modern Defense Department methods for predicting and protecting against radioactive fallout.

His programs established the technical framework for compensating veterans exposed to radiation from atmospheric nuclear tests, and later he addressed issues that arose from the Chernobyl disaster. After retirement from government service, he joined ITT Corporation as a senior scientist, working with the Threat Reduction Agency on research to combat terrorism.

Dr. Auton was involved with the community throughout his lifetime, serving in local scouting programs and teaching adults at Providence Presbyterian Church. He was married to Sylvia Auton for forty years and was the father of two children, Timothy Lee Auton and Alyson Ann Auton. He was a dedicated family man who always put family first, and his main hobbies were classic cars and investing in the stock market.