

## **Thomas Manos: His data helped shape Nader book**

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Thomas Manos, a former Ford Motor Co. engineer, University of Detroit professor and researcher on automobile safety who saw some of his data used in Ralph Nader's book "Unsafe at Any Speed," died of lung cancer Monday at his daughter's home in Grosse Pointe Woods.

The Las Vegas resident was 80.

"With all of his accomplishments, family was always the most important thing that mattered to my father," his son, Harry-George Manos, said Thursday. "He was a very unassuming man who made everyone believe they could achieve what they set their minds to."

Born in Detroit and one of 11 children of Greek immigrants, Mr. Manos graduated from Cass Tech in 1944. He served in the Army during World War II and was stationed in Georgia.

After the war, Mr. Manos received two bachelor's degrees from the University of Michigan in mechanical engineering and mathematics, as well as master's degrees in aeronautical engineering and a PhD in mechanical engineering in 1955.

He also held a master's in applied mechanics from what is now known as Wayne State University. He married his wife, the former Patricia Demas, in 1956.

Mr. Manos began his teaching career at the University of Detroit in 1959. At the same time, he also worked at Ford, taught at Henry Ford Community College and developed his own consulting business.

While at U-D, Mr. Manos initiated a program that explored the instability of the Chevrolet Corvair, a rear-engine car made by General Motors. His son said that consumer activist Nader appeared in class one day, expressing an interest in the subject. Over time, the two exchanged information, and some of that appeared in Nader's book. Published in 1965, the book detailed Nader's claims that car manufacturers resisted the introduction of safety features.

Over the years, Mr. Manos earned a reputation as a reliable witness in the safety field and was occasionally called upon to testify at important hearings.

In addition to his son, survivors include his wife; three daughters, Valerie Manos-Geftos, Christine Harris and Deborah Manos-Bajis; three sisters, and eight grandchildren.

Burial will be in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Detroit.

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