

**FOUNDING PRESIDENT
OF PASSAIC COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Colonel Robert S. Zimmer, Ph.D., USAFR
(1924-2009)**



Robert Spitzer Zimmer, the founding president of Passaic County Community College, died on Monday, October 26. He was 85 and lived in Williamsburg, Virginia.

A Memorial Service with Military and Masonic honors will be held at Williamsburg United Methodist Church, 500 Jamestown Road in Williamsburg on Friday, October 30 at 2 pm.

Born in West Seneca, New York on April 28, 1924, Dr. Zimmer was a veteran of WWII. He served in the 22nd Tank Battalion of the 11th Armored Division in the Battle of the Bulge and helped to liberate Mauthausen Concentration Camp (Austria).

Dr. Zimmer was a 1947 graduate of Brockport State College (NY) where he starred on the basketball team. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago in 1949 and 1950, respectively, at which time he became a member of the United States Air Force (ASAF) Reserves.

In 1961, Dr. Zimmer became the founding president of Allegany Community College in Maryland, and in 1967 of Kankakee Community College in Illinois. He took on the same role at Passaic County Community College in Paterson, New Jersey in 1971. Dr. Zimmer then returned to full time USAF service at the Pentagon and was instrumental in gaining accreditation for the Community College of the Air Force. He also served as a professor at the National War College at Ft. Lesley J. McNair in Washington, DC. Dr. Zimmer retired in 1981 as a Colonel in the Air Force Reserves and had been a resident of Williamsburg since 1990.

He is survived by his wife, June (Busch) of 61 years and son, William R. “Chip” and his wife, Barbara of Hagerstown, Maryland and daughter, Lucinda S. “Cindy” Stenger of Williamsburg, Virginia. His four grandchildren are: Daniel John Stenger (29), a student at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA; Senior Airman Benjamin Robert Stenger (27),

stationed in Kaiserlautern, Germany; Laura Ann Stenger (22), a student at Thomas Nelson Community College in Hampton, Virginia and Kaitlin Melissa Zimmer (19) a student at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland. He is also survived by his brother, Martin T. Zimmer of Clinton, Missouri as well as by eight nieces and three nephews.

Dr. Zimmer was an active member of the Williamsburg United Methodist Church, the Williamsburg Masonic Lodge #6, and the Ali Ghan Shrine Club in Cumberland, MD. He was also a charter member of the ROMEOS (Retired Old Men Eating Out).

A private interment will be held at a later date in Woodlawn Cemetery, Orchard Park, NY. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be given to Williamsburg United Methodist Church or the Shriners Hospital for Children in care of Khedive Temple at 645 Woodlake Dr., Chesapeake, VA 23320.