

In Memorium
JAL NARIMAN BHARUCHA
January 25, 1925 – January 16, 2018

Jal Bharucha died peacefully in Middletown, Connecticut, at age 93, having lived a good and full life. He was born in Bombay in 1925 to Nariman Bharucha and Aloo Bharucha (nee Patel). He attended Billimoria High School in Panchgani and College of Engineering in Poona. In 1947 he traveled to the United States by ship and obtained a Master's in Civil Engineering from the University of Michigan, specializing in pre-stressed concrete structures. There he met his future wife, Elizabeth Emily Robinson, who was majoring in music at Michigan. They married in Bombay in 1950, and lived there until the late 1970s.

Jal had a distinguished career in India as a consulting engineer. He was called upon for structural projects that were unusually complex for the time, in Kerala, Gujarat and Bombay, including the iconic Princess Street flyover bridge in Bombay. In the 1960s, he became the first practicing engineer in India to use computers in structural design -- work which he conducted at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR).

In 1962, Jal and Elizabeth joined with several other couples to found the Bombay International School, which was highly progressive for its time, and where they enrolled their three children.

After moving to the US, Jal worked on software systems on Wall Street, and then retired to Bradenton, Florida in 1994, where he and Elizabeth spent many happy years. An avid environmentalist, he volunteered as a technical consultant to the Sierra Club in a successful campaign to prevent Florida Power and Light from bringing tankers containing a controversial fuel, Orimulsion, from Venezuela into Tampa Bay.

In 2013, Jal and Elizabeth relocated to Middletown, Connecticut to be with their daughter Annaita Gandhi.

Jal was known for his brilliance, integrity and disciplined life. He was deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi and Albert Einstein, and joined the movement to oppose Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's claim to emergency powers.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Elizabeth, children Camille, Annaita and Jamshed, grandchildren Riyad Gandhi, Roxanne Irani, Sarah Griffin, Christian Griffin, and Arthur Bharucha, and great grandchildren Anya Irani and Jahan Irani.