Michael A. Peszke, M.D., of Wakefield, RI, died suddenly and unexpectedly of an apparent heart attack at home May 17, 2015. Dr. Peszke was born in Dębliń, Poland in 1932 and predeceased by his parents Alfred Bartłomiej Peszke in London in 1966 and Eugenia “Halina” Grębocka Peszke in London in 1983.

At the outbreak of World War II in September 1939, Dr. Peszke's father, Alfred B. Peszke, was commander of the Polish VI Bomber Squadron. Evacuated to France and then Britain, Alfred continued serving with the Polish Air Force as Polish Liaison Officer with Britain's Royal Air Force, and in 1944 became Chief of Air Force Planning at the Staff of the Polish Commander-in-Chief in London.

For this reason, Dr. Peszke found himself in Britain during the war. Educated at schools in Scotland and England, and finally receiving his medical degree in 1956 from Trinity College, Dublin in Ireland, Dr. Peszke subsequently emigrated to the United States where he performed his residency in Psychiatry. Professor Emeritus of the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Member Emeritus of the American College of Psychiatrists and Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, Dr. Peszke practiced for almost 40 years, primarily in Connecticut, and resided in Glastonbury, CT with his wife Alice Sherman Peszke from 1968-1991.

Dr. Peszke combined his professional career with a parallel vocation as an independent scholar and historian, and a Member of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences. Specializing in Polish Military History, Dr. Peszke published many monographs, journal articles and four books. His most recent book, The Armed Forces of Poland in the West 1939-1946 (2013), was translated and re-published in Poland in 2015. Recently, Dr. Peszke was extremely pleased to have completed the entry for the forthcoming Oxford University Bibliographies in Military History titled “Polish Armed Forces 1918-Present.”

Dr. Peszke was particularly proud of his long association as a founding member of the Polish Studies Program at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, CT. One labor of love, accomplished with a team from CCSU and others, was the Kosciuszko Squadron exhibit at the New England Air Museum in Windsor, CT. In October 2014, the Polish Ambassador to the United States presented Dr. Peszke with the Bene Merito Award in recognition of his work in promoting Poland abroad through the Polish Studies Program at CCSU.

Left behind are Dr. Peszke's beloved wife of 56 years, Alice Sherman Peszke; Michele and Edward Olender, of Longmeadow, MA; Michael Alexander and Lois Shellhorne Peszke of Old Saybrook, CT; and four grandchildren: Michael William Sherman Peszke of Meriden, CT, and Sophia Olender, Nicholas Olender and Olivia Olender of Longmeadow, MA.

There are no calling hours and burial will be private. A Memorial Service is planned in celebration of his life at Central Connecticut State University in the fall of 2015. Anyone wishing to donate in memory of Dr. Peszke is asked to consider supporting the Polish Studies Program at Central Connecticut State University.

Donations may be sent to:
M.B.B. Biskupski, Professor of History ,
Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies
Central Connecticut State University
1615 Stanley Street,
New Britain, CT 06050

Or online to the Polish Studies Program at CCSU through the following link: www.ccsu.edu/give. Scroll down to the blank marked “Other” and type in “Polish Studies”. The gift can be made in memory of Michael Peszke.