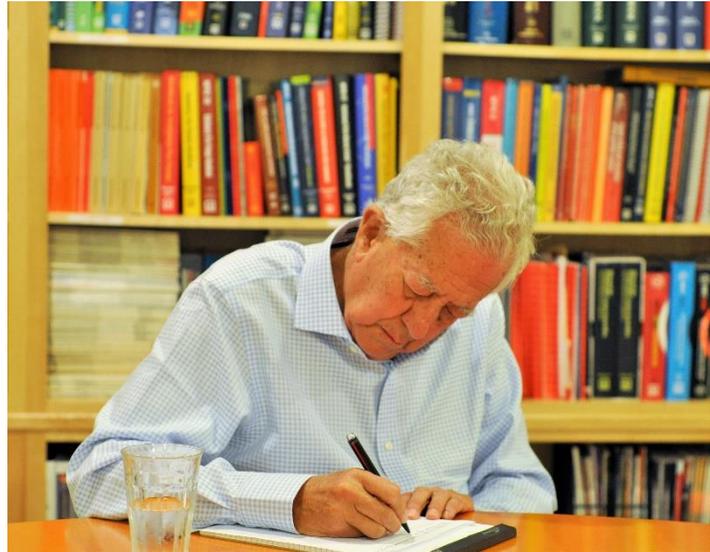


## JAIME MONCADA-PÉREZ 1931-2020

Jaime Moncada-Pérez died on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 in Bogotá, Colombia from complications after a cerebral ischemia, at almost 89 years of age. Don Jaime, as he was usually called, is recognized for the introduction of modern fire protection engineering in Latin America, an effort he began more than 40 years ago.



Mr. Moncada was born in Colombia, and graduated from high school in Manizales, Colombia. From there he studied chemical engineering at the University of Antioquia in Medellín, graduating in 1955. He then achieved a master's degree in Industrial Hygiene at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, graduating in 1957, and completed his graduate studies with a master's degree in Economics at the University of the Andes in Bogotá, Colombia, in 1970.

During his career he was recognized with many international distinctions, among which he is the only Latin American to be elected to the Board of Directors of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA); he was also co-editor of NFPA's Fire Protection Handbook in Spanish, the only document written for the fire safety practitioner in Latin America; and was awarded the prestigious H.W. Harryatt Award, presented bi-annually by the International Fire Sprinkler Association (IFSA), an award only given to people who have made a dramatic contribution to the international advancement of fire protection, and specifically fire sprinklers ([https://youtu.be/\\_TdE6\\_xbPIU](https://youtu.be/_TdE6_xbPIU)).

Mr. Moncada's work was geared towards the development and advancement of fire protection in Colombia and Latin America, and that is perhaps his most important legacy. He visited NFPA in 1976 and proposed that their mission include Spanish-speaking countries, and years later he began, with NFPA, a relationship of more than 40 years. He initiated the first translation of NFPA standards into Spanish, he organized the first fire protection seminars and congresses throughout Latin America, became the first instructor of NFPA seminars in Spanish, and created, in 1981, the Ibero-American Fire Protection Organization (OPCI), over which he presided with distinction. In 2002, he became one of the first certified fire protection specialists (CEPI) by NFPA in Latin America. Upon fulfillment of Mr. Moncada's terms on NFPA's Board of Directors, James Shannon, then president of NFPA wrote "*Jaime has been one of our most powerful advocates and the foundation of our activity across Latin America. I consider Jaime a hero in the history of NFPA for his dedication, professionalism, and commitment to the mission of NFPA.*" In the following link there is an interview describing his work on behalf of fire protection: <https://youtu.be/WnvxaAiCnbo> (in Spanish only).

Mr. Moncada is survived by his second wife Aneth Calderón, director of OPCI, his sons Jaime Andrés, director of International Fire Safety Consulting (IFSC) and Alejandro, manager of IFSC Andina, who continued his profession, his daughter Maria Claudia, his son-in-law Luis Vargas, his daughter-in-law Kirsten Moncada, and his seven beloved grandchildren to whom he passed on his love for education: Maria Mazzanti, recently graduated from Sandberg Instituut in Amsterdam, Santiago Moncada, student at Heidelberg University in Germany, Manuela Vargas a student at ITAM University in Mexico City, Elena Moncada, recently graduated from Harvard College, Axel Moncada, a student at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, Tomás Moncada, a middle-school student at the Gimnasio Moderno in Bogotá, and one-year old Violeta Moncada.

We celebrate his life full of generosity, of achievements, and dedicated tirelessly to spreading knowledge in fire protection. We know that his legacy will remain alive in the thousands of professionals who learned from him. He was a teacher's teacher, as well as an irreplaceable father, grandfather, husband, friend, and professional.