



Leander Floyd Johnson

August 3, 1926 - December 12, 2020

Leander Floyd Johnson, Ph. D., age 94 of Knoxville, passed away Saturday, December 12, 2020. He was born in Lecompte, Louisiana on August 3, 1926. He served in the U. S. Navy in 1945-46 in the Asiatic-Pacific area. He attended the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and received a B. S. degree in Biology in 1948. After a year as a science teacher at Urania, La. High School, he attended Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge, and earned an M. S. degree in Botany in 1951 and a Ph. D. degree in Plant Pathology in 1953. For the next 36 years he was employed at the University of Tennessee where he taught courses in botany, microbiology, and plant pathology. He served as major professor and committee member for many M.S. and Ph. D. candidates. His research activities on the ecology of soil microorganisms and their effects on the severity of plant diseases resulted in more than 70 publications in national and international scientific journals. He was also author of two books on research methods for plant pathologists studying soil-borne plant diseases. One of his books was translated into Chinese. He received the Gamma Sigma Delta Merit Award in 1974. He grew and exhibited prize-winning roses and was active in the Tennessee and American Rose Societies and published several research studies on control and management of rose diseases. Also, for many years he was a reviewer of research grant proposals submitted to the National Science Foundation. He was elected to membership in Sigma Xi Honorary Research Society, Gamma Sigma Delta Honorary Society of Agriculture, and the Honorary Society of Phi Kappa Phi. He was active in the American Phytopathological Society and in the Knoxville Science Forum. His biography is included in "Who's Who in the South and Southwest" and in "Who's Who in America". He retired from U.T. as Professor Emeritus in 1990. As a hobby he played beautiful music on keyboards and home organs and often entertained his friends with mini-concerts. After his retirement he became proficient in and enjoyed playing duplicate bridge. Leander was preceded in death by his parents, Francis Menard and Marguerite Mae Johnson; his son Darryl Johnson; his sister Dorice Burnaman; his brother Elster Verzeyvelt, and step-daughter Kendal Edmonds. He is survived by his wife Jean Cawood Johnson; his son Jim Johnson of Chattanooga; step-son Cary Wolfenbarger and wife Libby; step-son David Perry and wife Debbie; step-son-in-law Andy Edmonds; step-daughter Kristi Wilson and husband Ted; Step-grandchildren

Shawn Wolfenbarger and wife Wendy, Mary Hope Naples and husband Ken, Samantha Perry, Michelle Amelse and husband Jon; Travis Wilson and wife Shelia; Amanda Wilson; step-great-grandchildren Avery, Hollie and Sullivan Maples; Charlie Wolfenbarger and Bryson and Garrett Amelse. A Graveside service will be held 3:00 p.m., Thursday, December 17, 2020, Highland Memorial Cemetery. Family and Invited Guests will meet at Rose Mortuary Mann Heritage Chapel at 2:30 p.m., and travel together in procession to the Cemetery. All Social Distancing procedures will be observed and Facial Coverings are required. On-line condolences may be extended at www.rosemortuary.com

Cemetery

Highland Memorial Cemetery
5315 Kingston Pike
Knoxville, TN,

Events

DEC
17

Graveside Service

03:00PM

Highland Memorial
5315 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN, US, 37919

Comments



“ Leander was a kind, patient and generous man and a loving husband to my mother. He was a great step-father to me. I admired his dedication to his profession, his music and his roses. He will be missed very much.

Dave Perry - December 17, 2020 at 07:40 PM



“ Leander, you are the most humble and kind man and the best father-in-law. I have been blessed by you and will cherish all the sweet memories over the years. You and Jeanie always opened your home to me and let Dave, Samantha and I "invade" your space and we are very grateful for that. :) Your home became my home and that meant the world to me. I will miss you greatly, and all our conversations about all kinds of things, and I hope you know how much I love you.

Love Always, your daughter-in-law, Debbie



Debbie Perry - December 17, 2020 at 07:38 PM



“ I'm sorry to hear of the passing of Uncle Leander. He was a very passionate man. I remember his dedication to playing organs and keyboards. I loved listening to him and seeing his enjoyment in playing music!!

Tim Burnaman - December 17, 2020 at 08:53 AM



“ I have many good memories of my long association with Dr. Johnson in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. I and his colleagues regarded him highly. My warm thoughts and prayers for his family.
Glen Hall, Dean Emeritus

Dr. Glen Hall - December 16, 2020 at 09:03 AM