WSWS NECROLOGY REPORT – 2019

Harlene Hatterman-Valenti – Chair

Lubbock- Dr. John Ray Abernathy, 73, of Lubbock passed away Tuesday, September 18, 2018. He was born January 4, 1945 to the late George Raymond and Tommy Loys (Fewell) Abernathy in Altus, Oklahoma. John graduated from Altus High School in 1963. He married Cynthia Sue (Canady) Abernathy May 24, 1969 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

John had a passion for agriculture, graduating from Oklahoma State University in 1969, where he received his Bachelor of Science and his Master of Science in Agronomy. He continued to further his education at the University of Illinois receiving his Ph. D. in Agronomy in 1972. John held several positions over the years, he worked at Texas A&M Agricultural Experiment Station in Lubbock as a Weed Scientist and as the Resident Director for a total of 24 years. He was an International Consultant of Weed Science and Research from 1985 - 2017 and was a board member for the National Farm Life Insurance Company from 1998 - 2017. He received many awards along the way including the Outstanding Young Weed Scientist Award from the Southern Weed Science Society in 1980 and the USDA Group Award for excellence as a member of the AG-CARES team. John was named Fellow in the Weed Science Society of America and accepted the Gerald W. Thomas Outstanding Agriculturist Award from Tech's Ag College. He received the West TX Ag Chemicals Institute Award for outstanding Contributions in 1994. He retired as the Dean of the Texas Tech University College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources in 2003.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 49 years, Cindy; daughters, Larisa Abernathy Weldon of Keller, Christy Diann Liles and husband Larry of Frisco; siblings, Larry and wife Lynn Abernathy of Vernon, Frances Abernathy and husband Craig Sterling of San Angelo; five grandchildren, Grayson, Peyton and Megan Weldon, Abigail and Alexis Liles.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, September 22, 2018 at Combest Family Memorial Chapel with burial to follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Arnold Appleby was born on Oct. 24, 1935, raised on a farm near Formoso, KS, and died on December 6, 2018 at age 83 in Corvallis, OR.. He received the B.S. in Agricultural Education in 1957 and M.S. in Agronomy in 1958 from Kansas State University. After teaching math and biology at Bazine High School in Kansas, he joined the faculty in Farm Crops at Oregon State University in 1959. He received the PhD in Weed Science at OSU in 1962 and spent two seasons at the Pendleton Branch Experiment Station conducting weed research. He then returned to Corvallis where he was associate project leader under W.R. Furtick. In 1969, the project was divided and Furtick headed up the international work while Appleby became project leader of the domestic research. He began teaching the beginning weed control course and herbicide science course in 1965 and continued until his retirement in 1992, plus three more years post-retirement. This involved nearly 2,000 students over the 30 years.

Appleby was active in both the Weed Science Society of America and the Western Society of Weed Science. He served two terms as WSSA Secretary, and was elected Vice-President in 1974. He was forced to resign because of serious experimental eye surgery, from which he eventually recovered. He was named the Outstanding Teacher in 1971, Fellow in 1976, and Outstanding Researcher in 1983.

In WSWS, he was elected to the offices from Secretary through Past President. He was named Fellow in 1976 and Outstanding Weed Scientist in 1991. He also was named Fellow in the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society of America. He served as Associate Editor for both Weed Science and Agronomy Journal.

On campus, he was named Teacher of the Year in Crop Science three times, received the R.M. Wade Award as Outstanding Teacher in the College of Agriculture, won three Distinguished Professor awards, and won several Distinguished Service awards from commodity groups and other organizations.

One part of his professional activities that he looked back with most pleasure was advising graduate students. He directed 44 M.S. programs and 30 PhD programs. He maintained an e-mail address list with about 140 ex-OSU weed personnel, with whom he maintained correspondence until his death.

He authored several books, including the history of WSWS, WSSA, the OSU Crop Science Department, the OSU weed program, and the Agricultural Research Foundation.

Following retirement, he maintained an office in Crop Science and served as Building Manager. He was on the Board of Directors of the Agricultural Research Foundation and chaired the Competitive Grant Committee of that organization for sixteen years. He was named Volunteer of the Year by the OSU Retirees Assoc. In 2001, he received the Distinguished Service award from Kansas State University. In 2009 he was named Diamond Pioneer at OSU, and in 2010, he was inducted into the OSU College of Agriculture Hall of Fame, the first on-campus faculty to be inducted in the 30-year history of the Hall.

Weed science was Appleby's life and he always held the hope that any impact of his on that profession was beneficial.

He is survived by his wife, Gerry, of Corvallis; two sons, Brian and Brent; two sisters and a brother; five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Dr. John Clyde “J.C." Banks, of Creede, CO, passed away peacefully at age 72 on December 27, 2018, in Colorado Springs, CO surrounded by family. J.C. was born on March 22, 1946, in Cordell, OK to the late Alice Louise Pyron Banks and the late William Kenneth Banks. He grew up on a farm Southwest of Dill City, OK.

After High School, J.C. attended Cameron University, where he met the love of his life, Ruth Renee’ Dowlen. They married on June 3, 1967. To this union, two children were born; son Kenneth Edward, and daughter Diana Renee’.

J.C. earned a Ph.D. in Agronomy from Oklahoma State University in 1974. Upon graduation, he began working for Eli Lilly & Co. He served as a Senior Scientist for Plant Science Field Research in Lubbock, TX. Several years later, he was named manager of the Texas Research Station in Mission, TX, overseeing the management and operation of Lilly’s Plant Science Research Center in the Rio Grande Valley. In the early 1980s, J.C. was named Regional Research Representative for the Southwest Region based in Dallas, TX. He was responsible for the EPA Experimental Permit Program, product development, and technical service for the Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Colorado region. In 1987 he was transferred to Greenfield, IN where he covered the North Central Region.
With a desire to get back to his roots, he resigned from Eli Lilly & Co in 1988 and returned to Oklahoma to serve as the Director of the OSU SW Research and Extension office in Altus, OK as well as the OSU Extension Cotton Specialist. In 1995 Ag Consultant Magazine named J.C. “Consultant of the Year”. He was also honored at the Beltwide Cotton Conference in 1998 as “Cotton Specialist of the Year”. He had a special connection with many of the farmers in the region and considered them friends.

J.C. was a talented craftsman and enjoyed woodworking, blacksmithing, and working with metal. He had a well-earned reputation for being able to fix just about anything. He greatly enjoyed his church family and friends in Creede and was always happy to help people in the community.

J.C. is survived by his wife, Renee’; his children Kenny Banks (Shannon) and Diana Collier (Robbie); Four grandchildren: Kyndal Beasley (Matthew), Paige Banks, Tristan Collier, and Ethan Collier; and one great-grandson, Owen Beasley; his sister, Naea (Les) Teachman, and brother Bill (Pam) Banks. He was the best father, husband, son, brother, and “Grampy”. He will be missed dearly by all of his family and friends.

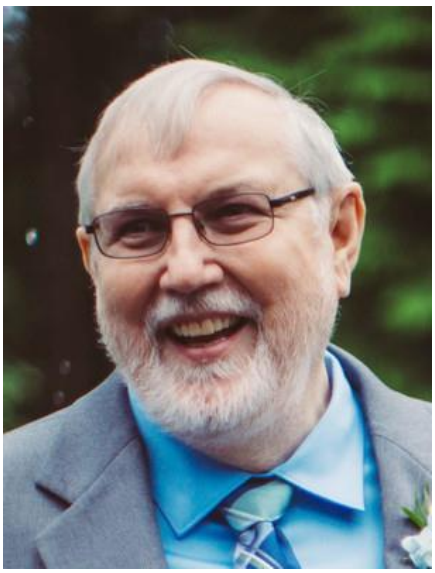
A service of remembrance will be held at Creede Baptist Church on February 16, 2019, at 10:00 am. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in his memory to Creede Baptist Church – 600 La Garita St – Creede, CO 81130.

Timothy Chicoine, 61, of St. Marys, Iowa died unexpectedly in a kayaking accident January 5, 2019. An avid sportsman and experienced kayaker, he died doing what he loved surrounded by some of his finest friends.

Born December 31, 1957 to the late Roland & Evelyn Chicoine, he was the 5th of 8 children. Growing up on the family farm in Elk Point, South Dakota taught Tim the values of hard work, integrity, family life, and faith. After high school, he attended South Dakota State University & Montana State University. At MSU, he met the future love of his life, Shannon, with whom he would spend 30 happy years and be blessed with 3 children. He crisscrossed the globe during his nearly 30 years of service to DuPont as an agronomist, ensuring more people could benefit from healthy, abundant food sources. His passion was the outdoors: whether camping with the family, in a boat with his friends, or spending time pruning the fruit trees on the family acreage, he was a man of nature. He deeply loved his family and friends and always had a smile for anyone he met. He was active in his local community and served the last 3 years as Grand Knight for the St Marys Knights of Columbus.

Tim was preceded in death by his parents Roland & Evelyn Chicoine, his mother-in-law Beverly Martin, and nephew Jason Chicoine. He is survived by his wife, Shannon, children: The Rev. Trevor Chicoine of West Des Moines, Kaley Chicoine of Eugene, OR, and Naomi Chicoine of Ames, siblings Jeff (Chris), David (Marcia), Marcia (Pat) Quinn, Danny (Penny), Brian (Terri), Nicole (Joe) Klein, Ellen (Bryan) Little and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Visitation will be Friday, January 11 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, at Immaculate Conception Church in St. Marys, Iowa. Funeral Services, with his son presiding, will be Saturday, January 12 at 10:30 AM at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Indianola, Iowa, with internment in St. Marys parochial cemetery to follow. Memorials may be directed to the Diocese of Des Moines seminarian fund or the Iowa Rivers Revival.

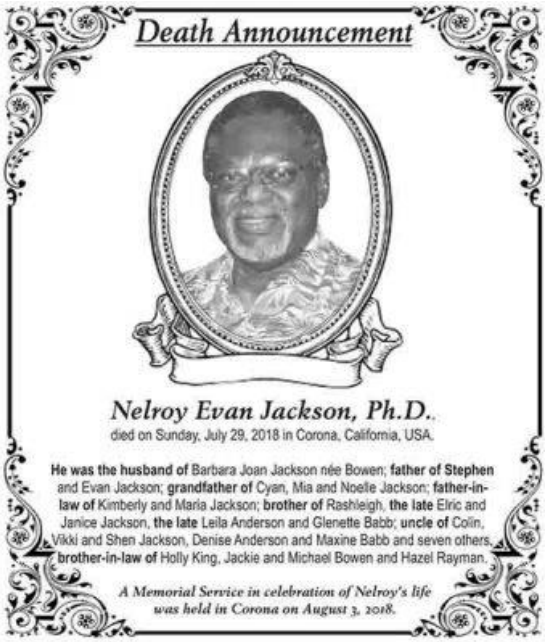


Seattle, WA - Michael Vernon Hickman died in Seattle, WA on May 26, 2018 while seeking treatment for a rare blood cancer, Chronic Myelomonocytic Leukemia (CMML). He was born in Galion, Crawford Co., OH to Frank Daniel and Eva Maude Longacre Hickman on January 5, 1951. He graduated from Cardington High School in Cardington, OH, and attended Ohio State University at Marion and Washington State University for his undergraduate degrees. He earned a M.S. in Agronomy at Washington State University and a Ph.D. in Agronomy at North Dakota State University in 1988.

He served as a nuclear engine machinist mate in the U.S. Navy from 1972-1977 aboard the submarine, the U.S.S. Nathan Hale. He married Nancy A. Greenwood in Fargo, ND on August 9, 1986 and they lived in Fargo, ND; Overland Park, KS; Weslaco, TX; and resided in Lafayette, IN for the past 28 years. Dr. Hickman worked as a Weed Scientist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture at Weslaco, TX and in West Lafayette at Purdue University, and more recently as a high school science teacher at Central Catholic High School and McCutcheon High School teaching physics, chemistry, and A.P. Biology. Nothing was more important to Doc than helping each student become the best he or she could be.

Mike was loved by his colleagues and students alike for his enthusiasm for science, sarcastic wit, sense of humor, Hawaiian shirts, and especially his smile. He enjoyed reading science but also loved reading about WWII, submarines, and science fiction. He shared a love for learning about his family history with his wife, digging through archives and tramping through cemeteries. Mike also enjoyed volunteering for a local cat rescue and at other community events. But above all he enjoyed time spent with his wife and daughter: cooking, laughing, and enjoying each other's company.

In addition to his wife, Mike is survived by his daughter, Mikael Anne Greenwood-Hickman and son-in-law, Ryne Torri of Seattle, WA; brothers Daniel (wife Judy) Hickman of Coats, NC; William Hickman of Fulton, OH, and Jon Hickman (wife Kim) of Perry, GA; sisters Sarah Ott of Sahuarita, AZ; Cathy Smothers (husband Steve Lane) of Columbus, OH; and sister-in-law, Terri Cox Hickman of Fulton, OH; as well as many nieces and nephews all of whom he loved very much. He was predeceased by his parents; his brother, Kenneth Hickman; and a nephew, Greggory Hickman.



Nelroy Evan Jackson, PhD. passed away in Corona, California on Sunday July 29, 2018. Nelroy was passionate about controlling invasive weed species and was instrumental in the development of herbicides for vegetation control in the west during his tenure at Monsanto. He was a founding board member of the California Exotic Pest Plant Council and served on the National Invasive Species Advisory Committee. Nelroy was awarded Fellow of the Western Society of Weed Science in 2005. He also received the Presidential Award of Merit and the Outstanding Industry Award from Weed Science Society of America.

He is survived by his wife; Barbara, sons and daughters in law; Stephen, Evan, Kimberly, and Maria, and grandchildren; Cyan, Mia, and Noelle, as well as numerous other family members. A memorial service in celebration of Nelroy's life was held in Corona on August 3, 2018.

Rupert DeWitt Palmer of Bryan, passed away January 14, 2019. Rupert was born at home January 28, 1929 in Winston County Mississippi to James Thomas Palmer and Coley Ree (Miles) Palmer. He holds an AA in Agriculture from East Central Junior College 1949, a BS in agricultural administration 1952, and a MS in Agronomy 1954 from Mississippi State University and a PhD in Botany from Louisiana State University 1959.

He met and was married to Reida Wilkie White August 22, 1954. They had a candle light ceremony at Ethel Baptist Church. They walked the pathway of life hand in hand for 62 years.
Rupert was stationed in the US Army Medical Corps at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. His name is listed on the Wall of Honor in Veterans Park, College Station, TX.

He was employed in 1959 to 1966 by Mississippi State University as a Plant Physiologist in the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station. He taught undergraduate and graduate courses as Associate Professor of Agronomy (Weed Science). He was major professor for graduate students in weed science. He was awarded the FAA State Farmer in Mississippi for his teaching vocational agricultural teachers weed control methods and weed identification.

He was an Extension Weed Specialist from 1966 to his retirement in 1989 with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, Texas A&M University. He enrolled in rangeland resource management at Texas A&M, and other staff short courses. He was elected to Gamma Sigma Delta, the honor society of agriculture. At his retirement January 31, 1989 the plaque contained the message “In honor of his untiring effort in identifying and recoding weeds of Texas and his service to Texas Agriculture”.

Rupert was an avid golfer who shot his age a number of times, was active in the Men’s golf association, and applied his background to improving the condition of then Briarcrest Country Club.

Rupert was preceded in death by his parents; his wife Reida; his brothers Haron and Joel; and his sisters Frances R. Humphries and Merry Z. Rainey. He is survived by his son Robert T. Palmer and wife Lorraine; his daughter Regina P. Wheaton and husband William; his grandchildren, Alexander W. Wheaton, Alison R Wheaton, Ramsey E. Palmer, Robert T. Palmer, Jr., and Reanna E. Palmer; his brothers, James O. Palmer and Pettus T. Palmer; and numerous nieces and nephews.

William Maurice (Bill) Phillips died December 2, 2018 at the age of 95. He was born December 4, 1922 at Newton, Kansas, the youngest of five children of S. Clayton and Minnie (Vesper) Phillips. He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers and one sister, infant son Stanley Glenn and daughter Carol Jean Frye. Survivors include his wife Doris of the home, children Bob and Roya Phillips, Fullerton, CA, Don and Becky Phillips, Alexandria, VA, Roger and Sue Phillips, Rio Rancho, NM, seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Both Bill and Doris were involved in many of their children's activities including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, and church activities. Bill grew up on farms in Harvey County, Kansas. His primary schooling was in a one room rural school where he was often the only student in his grade. Beginning with the ninth grade he attended Newton High School where he graduated in 1940. He enrolled in Kansas State College (now University) in the fall of 1940. After completing two years of college he enlisted in the United States Army Air Forces in November 1942.

Following basic training he was assigned to Bombsight and Automatic Pilot Training School located at Lowry Field, Denver, Colorado. After completing the course, he became part of the original cadre of the 745th Bomb Squadron, 456th Bomb Group, 15th Army Air Forces. Most of the state-side training was at Muroc, California (near the site of the present Edwards Air Force Base). Late in 1943 the unit, which flew B-24 bombers, was sent to Italy. The squadron remained on the same field, located near Cerignola, until July 5, 1945. Bombing missions were flown to various targets in southern Europe and Germany. As a member of the ground crew, Bill was not involved in combat missions. He was in charge of bombsight and automatic pilot service and maintenance on the squadron's B-24 bombers. He reached the rank of Technical Sergeant and was awarded the Bronze Star medal. He returned to the U.S. in August 1945 and was honorably discharged.

After spending a short time with his parents in Harvey County Kansas, he returned to Manhattan to look for employment. (All classes at the University had already started.) When applying for a job at the Kansas Crop Improvement Association he met Doris Mead, Office Manager for the Association. He and Doris were married April 18, 1946. Following a few months' work, Bill enrolled at the University for the 1946 spring semester. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1947, enrolled in Graduate School and received his Master of Science degree in 1949. On February 1, 1948 he began working for the Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. He was located at the Fort Hays Branch, Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station, Kansas State University, Hays, Kansas, as a cooperative State-Federal employee doing research on methods of controlling weeds in field crops. This began a long career in weed control research that, except for a 10-month assignment on a brush control project at Spur, Texas, was spent at the experiment station at Hays. Because of a reduction in force of federal employees,

Bill left federal service in 1973 and was employed by Kansas State University. His research was only slightly affected by this change.

In July 1976 he became Head of the Fort Hays Experiment Station and remained in that position until he retired in January 1985 with the academic rank of professor. During his career and following his retirement, Bill was recognized and honored for several achievements in weed control research and for developing improved farming practices using those research findings. His pioneering work in conservation tillage practices and weed control strategies in a winter wheat-grain sorghum-fallow cropping system for the Great Plains led to wide-spread acceptance of this farming system. This and other research was documented by many technical and popular publications and presentations. He was a member or past member of several professional and honorary scientific organizations including the Weed Science Society of America, North Central Weed Science Society, American Society of Agronomy, Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, Sigma Xi, Gamma Sigma Delta, and Alpha Zeta.

In 2001 he wrote the 100-year history of the Agricultural Research Center-Hays (formerly called the Fort Hays Experiment Station). The history, published by Kansas State University, was presented as part of the Center's Centennial Celebration. When Bill retired in January 1985 he and Doris moved to Manhattan where they enjoyed university, church, and community activities. They traveled extensively, both to visit family and to tour other parts of the world. They celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary April 18, 2018. Both Bill and Doris were active in the Presbyterian Church. Bill was a ruling elder for many years in the church in Hays and served as Trustee, church treasurer, and on many church committees.