WSWS Officer and Committee Report
March 6, 2022

Office or Committee Name: Necrology
Officer or Chairperson Name: Ryan E. Rapp
Date of Preparation (include year): March 6, 2022

Activities during the year: Delivered to the board for approval of presenting the Necrology information by poster throughout the week of the WSWS Annual Meeting. We also gathered information of WSWS past or present members that have pass away. This year, our society had one past member that has passed away, his write-up provided by Alex Ogg follows.

RICHARD 'DICK' COMES

Richard 'Dick' Comes passed away on September 27, 2021 in McMinnville, Oregon, surrounded by his children and their families. Dick was just 1 ½ months shy of his 90th birthday when he died. Dick was born in Nisland, South Dakota on November 16, 1931. He was the third of four children born to Nicholas and Frances (Moon) Comes. When Dick was a small child, his folks moved the family to Bonneville, Wyoming a very small community in Central Wyoming where Dick's father worked for the railroad. Dick attended school in nearby Shoshoni and graduated from high school in 1949. After high school, he joined the US Navy and served on the LST 855 Kent County tank landing ship during the Korean Conflict. During the time he served in the Navy, Dick met the love of his life, Carleen Compton. They were married on September 16, 1954 and spent 58 happy years together. Dick and Carleen had two daughters, Joni and Lona. Later they adopted a son, Dan. Carleen passed away in 2012. Dick and Carleen are buried in McMinnville, Oregon.

After completing his Navy duty, Dick attended the University of Wyoming, earning his Bachelor's Degree in Vocational Agriculture in 1958. He continued on at UW and earned his Master's Degree in Plant Science in 1960. Dick then accepted a position as a Research Agronomist with the Agriculture Research Service, USDA in Laramie, Wyoming. Between 1960 and 1965, Dick work to develop new and improved methods for controlling aquatic and ditch bank weeds in the Wyoming/Colorado area. In the 1965, Dick was transferred to Prosser, Washington to continue his work on aquatic and ditch bank weed management as a Research Plant Physiologist with ARS-USDA. In the fall of 1965, Dick attended graduate school at Oregon State University majoring in Weed Control in the Farm Crops Department. He received his Ph. D. from Oregon State University in 1971.

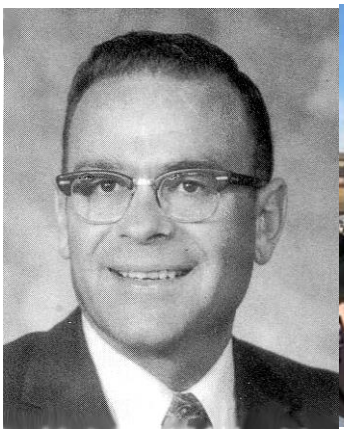
Dick authored or co-authored over 60 refereed publications on aquatic and ditch bank weeds and their control. His research contributed significantly to the registration of aromatic solvents for aquatic weed control in irrigation canals and to the registration of 2,4-D, dalapon and glyphosate for weed control on ditch banks and of diquat, dichlobenil, fenac, endothal and copper sulfate for

control of aquatic weeds in ponds and lakes. Late in his career he developed the "dangler" rope-wick applicator for applying herbicides to weeds on canal banks. He was also recognized as a leader in discovering and developing technology of using desirable grasses to suppress weeds on canal ditch banks.

Dick was recognized regionally, nationally and internationally as an expert on aquatic and ditch bank weed management. In 1979 and in 1981, Dick traveled to India and Pakistan where he served as a technical advisor on aquatic weed management.

Between 1975 and 1979, Dick served the Western Society of Weed Science as Research Section Chairman, Secretary, Vice-President and President. He was elected Fellow of WSWS in 1983. Dick also served on numerous committees and chairmanships for the Weed Science Society of American and was a member of the review board of the Weed Science Journal. Dick was elected Fellow of WSSA in 1986. In 1987 Dick was elected as President of the Aquatic Weed Management Society and served until fall of 1988. He had served on many committees in this organization.

Dick retired from ARS-USDA in December 1989. In his retirement Dick first and foremost enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He also enjoyed camping, hunting, boating, traveling, woodworking and gardening, and he was an avid fisherman. Dick loved helping people and loved the Lord. Dick never met a stranger because in five minutes they were a good friend.



Recommendations for Board Action: None

Budget Needs: Some years may need a budget for the poster material/printing process.

Name of Person Preparing This Report: Ryan E. Rapp