

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

**ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS LYNNDON A. BROOKS**

Lynndon A. Brooks, age 77, emeritus professor in the Department of Biological Systems Engineering, died on Friday, December 27, 2002. He was born on June 16, 1925, in Kaukauna, Wisconsin. He lived most of his youth on a farm near Berlin, Wisconsin, and graduated from Berlin High School in 1943. During World War II he attended Western Michigan College and the University of Notre Dame in the U.S. Navy officer's training program. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1948 with a B.S. degree in agriculture (Agricultural Engineering major) and in 1949 with a B.S. in civil engineering. Lynn worked for a short time with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service as district engineer in southeast Wisconsin later joining the UW-Madison Agricultural Engineering Department in 1950 as an instructor, becoming project leader for the Electric Research Farm. The purpose of the Electric Research Farm was to promote and demonstrate the safe and efficient use of electricity on the farmstead. He received an M.S. degree in agricultural engineering in 1958 and was appointed extension rural electrification specialist in 1960. He was promoted to assistant professor with tenure in 1964, associate professor in 1967 and professor in 1975.

Lynn's professional activities and publications were focused on milking equipment, milk cooling, mechanical farmstead equipment, ventilation, corn drying, efficient use of electricity and stray voltage. Lynn was one of the founding members of the Wisconsin Farm Electric Council (WFEC) and served as its secretary-treasurer for 25 years. The WFEC is a joint effort by electric power suppliers and educators to promote safe and efficient use of electricity. The organization produced educational programs and materials for electric power supplier personnel, electric equipment representatives, and the general public. In 1963, the WFEC started holding annual conferences and sponsored exhibits at Wisconsin Farm Progress Days such as an all-electric model home, various electric farmstead applications, proper wiring and stray voltage. In 1965, the WFEC began sponsoring exhibits on electric power for irrigation at the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Show and energy education events at the World Dairy Expo. The WFEC also provided funds for statewide 4-H electricity educational materials. Lynn coordinated the Extension 4-H electricity program serving as superintendent of the Mechanical Sciences Exhibit Department at the Wisconsin State Fair from 1967-1982. Lynn was one of the national leaders in developing educational programs to help farmers and electric utilities to deal with the problem of stray voltage. He organized several conferences on stray voltage from 1979 to 1987. He served as co-chair of the Wisconsin Stray Voltage Technical Committee in the 1980s. For eleven years, Lynn served as editorial consultant for "Electricity on the Farm" magazine and prepared thirty articles on electrical equipment and applications for the farmstead.

Lynn was an active member of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) where he served on numerous technical committees and chaired the Electrical Power and Processing Division in 1967-68. In 1985 he was awarded the George W. Kable award by ASAE. Lynn was active in the National Food and Energy Council and received their Education/Public Service Sector award in 1985. Lynn received the first Wayne G Russell award presented by the Wisconsin Power and Light Company in recognition of a career devoted to the safe and efficient use of electricity on farms. From 1977 through 1985 he served as manager of Wisconsin Farm Progress Days. The purpose of the Farm Progress Days is to "...promote a prosperous and permanent agriculture for Wisconsin...". During his tenure, the number of exhibitors increased from 600 to 1,100. In 1983, the show was the third largest farm show in the United States with many of the exhibits demonstrating farmstead electrical equipment. He was active in the North American Farm Show Council, serving as president in 1983. He retired from the University of Wisconsin-Madison as professor emeritus in 1987 after 37 years of service.

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Lynn married Norma Sassen on August 5, 1950, and they were blessed with two children, Gregory and Carol. Lynn was an active member of Bethel Lutheran Church since 1950, serving on the church council and various committees. He was on the board of directors of Oakwood Lutheran Homes Association from 1969-75 and was chairman of the board during construction of the Oakwood Village Apartments and Village Inn. He and Norma received the Oakwood Outstanding Service Award in 1984 for their work in the development of the Oakwood Lutheran apartments which complement the nursing home.

Lynndon was known by all as a kind, loving, gentle, caring, and thoughtful husband, father, grandfather and friend. He will be greatly missed.

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