

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR ROBERT E. HANNEMAN, JR.

Dr. Robert E. Hanneman Jr., age 59, passed away on October 18, 2002, after a courageous two and one-half year battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife Betty, a daughter Suzanne (husband Mark, daughter Anna) and a son Jonathan. A funeral was held in his hometown in Watertown, Wisconsin on October 22.

Bob was born in Wisconsin Rapids on November 10, 1942. He received all three of his degrees at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, including a B.S. degree in Biochemistry, an M.S. degree in Genetics, and a Ph.D. Degree in Plant Breeding and Genetics, under the tutelage of Professor Stanley Peloquin (Genetics and Horticulture). His thesis work was entitled "Diploid-tetraploid hybridization in cultivated potatoes."

After obtaining his Ph.D., Bob served his country for four years (1968-1971) as a captain in the U.S. Army, as a biochemist/laboratory officer and served in Vietnam. He then worked for one year (1971-1972) as a postdoctoral fellow at the National Research Council of Canada as a potato breeder, followed by two years as a seed producer for O.M. Scott and Sons (1972-1974). In 1974, he obtained a position as a research geneticist for the USDA Agricultural Research Service, and appointment as assistant professor in the Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was appointed to associate professor in 1982, and professor in 1988.

Bob became world-known for his discovery of an economically important biological isolating mechanism in potato, referred to as "Endosperm Balance Number." In essence, he was able to explain the mechanism that hindered the use of many economically valuable wild potato species in breeding, but more important, how to 1) predict those that could or could not cross well to the cultivated potato, and 2) explain how to overcome this crossing barrier through a process called ploidy manipulation. Bob's discovery had tremendous economic impact for potato breeders because we now have a way to know how to manipulate the wild species to insure that they can be used for breeding, saving hundreds of hours of wasted time in crosses, and insuring the use of these wild species. Bob then followed up on this discovery by using this knowledge to make thousands of crosses of potatoes with the wild potato species, and produced new lines of use to potato breeders. In addition, his discovery has been used by those looking into relationships of the wild potato species, showing the association of Endosperm Balance Number to other traits in potato. The Endosperm Balance Number concept has been found to be widely applicable to genome manipulations in many other plant families, extending the impact of Bob's work. As a testament to Bob's work, a discussion of Endosperm Balance Number is now a standard part of every book on potatoes, guaranteeing that Bob's pioneering studies on this subject will be mentioned forever more in the scientific literature.

Bob was a member of the European Potato Association and the Potato Association of America. He was actively sought for advice by many potato organizations, and served as an advisor on germplasm collection and enhancement for the International Potato Center. He served as project leader of the USDA National Potato Genebank in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, from 1974 to 1987. He received many competitive grants and awards for his research, including the prestigious Researcher of the Year Award from the National Potato Council, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Potato Grower Magazine in 2001. He served as academic advisor to 14 graduate students, four post-doctoral fellows, and published over 70 peer-reviewed scientific papers.

Bob was very active in his hometown church, Calvary Baptist Church, and served on the Board of Directors of Maranatha Baptist Bible College also in Watertown. Bob was a well-known and beloved person by all who knew him, and he will be greatly missed by all.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

David Spooner

Philipp Simon