

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

**ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ROBERT J. DICKE**

Robert Jerome Dicke, professor emeritus of entomology, died in Cambridge, Wisconsin, on September 19, 2003. He was 91.

Bob Dicke was born in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, on June 16, 1912, to William C. and Anna (Kerskamp) Dicke. As a high schooler in Sheboygan Falls, he was captain of the track team and class president. He attended Whitewater State Teachers College for one year, then transferred to the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he concentrated in chemistry, botany, and zoology, and graduated with honors in 1940. In the same year, he married Hermine Marie Priland. Bob's boyhood interest in natural history led him to pursue graduate study in the Department of Entomology here, under the guidance of Professor T.C. Allen. Bob completed his Ph.D. in 1943, just prior to entering the U.S. Naval Medical Corps. During the war he was stationed in Trinidad, where he worked on the control of malaria-transmitting mosquitoes, rising to the rank of lieutenant.

At the end of his military service, Bob returned to the UW-Madison, where he was appointed assistant professor of entomology in 1946. He was promoted to associate in 1949, and to full professor in 1952. As a young professor, he continued his research on mosquitoes with investigations into the effect of light on their feeding and migratory responses. Later, he expanded his work into the biology and control of stored-product insects and insects of medical and veterinary importance. In 1959 he became chairman of the department, a post he ably filled for nine years. As chair, Bob Dicke helped design the department's quarters in the new Russell Laboratories building and orchestrated the move from King Hall in 1964. Under his leadership, the department grew to become one of the leading entomology departments in the country. During his 31-year active career in the department, Bob authored or co-authored more than 60 technical publications. He became professor emeritus in 1977, after 31 years of service.

Professor Dicke had a major role in developing a joint state and federal research program to study the biology and control of insects and mites that contaminate stored food products, culminating in the establishment of the USDA Stored Products Research Laboratory, housed for many years in the Department of Entomology. In 1964, as chief of party, he organized the International Agricultural Project in Nigeria. He was a member of the Entomological Society of America for over 60 years, and was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Bob was perhaps best known and beloved as a teacher and mentor. Hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students benefitted from his caring attention. Prior to his retirement in 1977, he mentored 20 graduate students to their Ph.D. degrees. He taught seven different courses at various times. For many years he taught the department's introductory course, Entomology 302, turning on generations of admiring undergraduates to the marvels of the insect world. Inked drawings for the laboratory exercises of his course in insect morphology were painstakingly prepared and excellent. His dedication to teaching was recognized with the 1973 College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award. This was a well-deserved honor; his faculty colleagues had known for a long time that many students considered Dr. Dicke the most outstanding instructor that they had encountered at the University of Wisconsin.

Beyond the department, Bob Dicke contributed his many talents to the university as well as to the broader community. He served on the Arboretum Committee for 12 years and as its chairman for three. He was a member and president of the Wisconsin Academy of Arts, Letters, and Science, and president of the Wisconsin Phenological Society. The Madison Westside Rotary Club, United Way, and the Boy

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Scouts all benefitted from Bob's many years of active service. He chaired the first county-wide fund drive conducted for the mentally retarded, and later served as a member of the Madison Area Council on Retardation. He was chairman of the board of directors that established the Madison Opportunity Center, and chaired the Dane County Day Care Service Board. His hobbies included Civil War history, photography, taxidermy, and bridge. In retirement, Bob indulged his passion for raising orchids, and devoted a great deal of energy to forest development on the family's property and cabin near Ladysmith. An avid bowler, he bowled in the Faculty Bowling League for many years.

Robert Dicke is survived by his wife, Hermine, of Madison, and their four children, Bob and Bill, and Mary Prisland, all of Madison, and Katie Gorton of Brookfield, Wisconsin.

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