

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ROBERT W. BRAY

Robert Woodbury Bray died on January 7, 2007 in Madison, WI and was buried at Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery. He was born October 17, 1918 on a farm near Dodgeville, WI. He is survived by his wife Gladys Kathryn Mader Bray; a daughter, Jane (Eric) Englund; two grandsons, Jon (Marcela) and twin great-granddaughters, Sofia and Lucia, and Jay Englund; a sister, Wanda McCutchin; and a brother, Keith Bray. He was preceded in death by his son, Robert Woodbury II; a sister, Helen O'Donnell; and his parents, Ford and Ethyl Bray.

Bray was raised on a Wisconsin dairy farm and graduated from Dodgeville High School in 1936. He enrolled at the University of Wisconsin, studied agricultural education, and developed a compelling interest in meat science through his experiences on the meat judging team coached by Professor O. Burr Ross. He graduated with a B.S. degree in 1941 and subsequently decided to pursue graduate studies with Professor Davey MacIntosh at Kansas State University. Bray earned an M.S. degree in 1941 and then worked briefly for Swift & Company. Shortly thereafter, he was asked to return to the University of Wisconsin to assist with teaching, research and extension in meat science. In 1943 he was commissioned as a naval officer and served until World War II ended. In 1946 he returned to the University of Wisconsin to resume his efforts in meat science, and at the same time, he undertook graduate studies in biochemistry and meat science. His major professors were Gustav Bohstedt and Paul Phillips, and he received the Ph.D. degree in 1949.

His professional career was characterized by the hard work effort, by being both kind to and demanding of students, by searching endlessly for talented colleagues and by exhaustive deliberation in order to make "good" decisions. From holding forth in "Bray Hall" (a one-room wooden building, formerly near the present Meat Science and Muscle Biology Laboratory), to rising through the ranks to professor, to serving as chair of the Department of Animal Science, to being associate dean and director of research of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences for 17 years, Bob Bray was a natural leader, a well-trained scientist and a gentleman. While associate dean and director, Dr. Bray was instrumental in shifting all faculty salaries away from Hatch funds. He earned a unique distinction of having taught, to home economics majors exclusively, a class about identification, nutritional value and cookery of meat—for about twenty years.

Broadly stated, his research was focused on measuring and understanding qualitative and quantitative factors that affected palatability of meat. His professional accomplishments were recognized often and included: chairman of the Reciprocal Meat Conference; first president of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA); recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award from American Society of Animal Science, in 1962; recipient of the Distinguished Meat Science Research Award from AMSA, in 1969; recipient of the Signal Service Award from AMSA, in 1962; and first recipient of the R. C. Pollack Award from the National Livestock and Meat Board, in 1977. In 1994 he was inducted into the Wisconsin Meat Industry Hall of Fame. Although Bob Bray was on the receiving end of such very prestigious awards, his genuine focus was with concern for and giving to others.

A godly portion of his career was spent working with and for organizations aligned with the livestock and meat industry. Examples are: the former International Livestock Show of Chicago, IL; the Wisconsin State Fair of Milwaukee, WI; and the Wisconsin Association of Meat Processors (WAMP). Bray believed in the value of meat carcass shows to illustrate to producers the most desirable animals to breed and feed. He also used the carcass show format to teach consumers about selection, nutritional value and proper preparation of meat. He served as superintendent of the Quality Meat Contest at the International

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Livestock Show for 14 years, and served another six years as a director. Many students helped in the coolers and recall the experience as a stimulation to their careers. He also promoted a carcass show at the Wisconsin State Fair, as well as insisting his students perform meat cutting demonstrations while at the same time working in verbal, educational tidbits about nutritional value of meat. He worked tirelessly with WAMP—teaching the owners of small family businesses in Wisconsin about meat quality, sanitation and modern equipment and processes. The organization sponsored a “meat product show” at their annual convention, and from 12 product entries in 1951, the show has grown to about 900 entries in 2007. The WAMP meat product show is recognized as a model throughout the USA. The Wisconsin Meat Industry Hall of Fame was the inspiration of Dr. Bray in 1993. This hall of fame, housed in the Meat Science Laboratory, recognizes individuals or companies that have made a significant impact on the meat industry in Wisconsin. Bray believed it was an important function of the Hall of Fame to recognize, record, and thereby ensure not only a lasting tribute, but equally important, to serve as a challenge to future generations.

He encouraged and impacted so very many people, and then made a special effort to follow their progress as they worked in their own careers. He was also serious about relaxation and social life. He enjoyed and was a devoted enthusiast about and a professional at golfing, fishing, hunting and skiing. There was never a more loyal and faithful spectator of Badger sports. Students always had a special remembrance of the “social events” hosted by Bob and Kathryn.

Bob and Kathryn Bray have made generous bequests to the University of Wisconsin. Professor Emeritus Robert W. Bray had a remarkable pride in his university and his university is indeed proud of him.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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