

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS JOHN E. MITCHELL

Professor John E. Mitchell, age 91, passed away on Saturday, August 30, 2008. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Jane, and by three sons: 1) William and his wife, Jean Larson; 2) Charles and his wife, Sally Wiedemann, and daughter, Nellie Rose; and 3) Robert and his wife, Marianne Morton, and children, Laura and Alex. "Jack," as John was called during his entire life, was born in San Francisco, CA on March 27, 1917, the son of Amy Edwards and John Alfred Mitchell, a researcher with the U.S. Forest Service. The family moved to various locations over the years, eventually settling in Minneapolis, MN. There, Jack attended the University of Minnesota, studying horticulture, then plant pathology. He initiated graduate work in plant pathology at Louisiana State University, but World War II interrupted his academic career. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served as a line officer on a small ship in the Pacific theater. After 42 months, he returned to graduate school, this time at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he received the Ph.D. degree in biochemistry in 1948.

Jack worked for eight years as a plant pathologist with the Chemical Corps of the U.S. Army in Frederick, MD. In 1956, he joined the faculty of the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin as assistant professor. He was quickly promoted to associate professor and then to full professor. His research concerned the control of diseases of fruit trees, particularly apples and cherries, and he did extensive work on the problem of fungicide residues upon harvest of treated plants. Later, his research involved the epidemiology and control of diseases caused by soil-borne microorganisms on a variety of crops, including peas, potato, horseradish, and ginseng. At the invitation of the Thai government, he spent several weeks in Thailand working on disease control problems. He attracted numerous graduate students to his research program, and he received recognition for his research contributions when he was named fellow of the American Phytopathological Society.

Perhaps the major characteristic of Jack's personality was his penchant for service to his students, colleagues, the department, and the university. He was always helpful, even-tempered, and fully dedicated. For example, he spent more than two years working with architects in the design of Russell Laboratories, even at considerable sacrifice to his research program. In addition, he served as chairman of the department from 1975 to 1980. He was modest and even-handed in the administration of the department and handled personal and financial problems with great skill. Outside of the university, he contributed a great deal to Covenant Presbyterian Church and to other community organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity, the UW-Madison Arboretum, and the West Madison Rotary Club. He was well known as a skillful carpenter and was always in great demand by all of these organizations.

A quiet, modest person, he will be remembered for his devotion to his family, his fellow co-workers, and the university. An extraordinary man, whose compassion for others and his willingness to serve were foremost in his mind, will not be forgotten.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
Deane C. Army
Luis Sequeira, chair
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