

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ROBERT W. HOUGAS

Dr. Robert Hougas was born in 1918 in Blythesdale, Missouri. He received his BS and PhD degrees from the University of Wisconsin in 1942 and 1949, respectively. His primary areas of study were genetics and plant breeding. Dr. Hougas served as an officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1941 to 1945.

After completing his graduate work, Dr. Hougas joined the faculty of the Department of Genetics, where he served as an assistant professor from 1949 to 1956 and as an associate professor from 1956 to 1962. From 1962 to 1984, Hougas was jointly appointed in the departments of Genetics and Horticulture. He served this institution as a faculty member for 34 years.

Dr. Hougas had an international reputation for research in breeding wild and cultivated potatoes. His work in developing and evaluating haploids of cultivated potato formed the basis of a number of significant advancements in potato breeding and genetics. In particular, this discovery allowed breeders and geneticists to study potato at the diploid level, which simplified their work and also facilitated gene transfer from numerous wild species into the cultivated potato. These efforts led to potato breeding strategies that are now commonly employed in transferring desirable traits from unadapted relatives into commercial cultivars.

Dr. Hougas also served as the first project leader for the interregional Potato Introduction Station, known as IR-1. This effort led to the placement of the U.S. potato genebank at the Peninsular Agricultural Research Station in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. Hougas also served as the president of the Potato Association of America.

Dr. Hougas served as an administrator in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, working as assistant dean and director in 1965–1966, associate dean and director from 1966 to 1984, and acting dean in 1977 and 1979. Dr. Hougas provided key administrative support for the development of the Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics program, an interdepartmental graduate program that has trained more PhDs in plant breeding and plant genetics than any other program in the U.S. Dr. Hougas also created the campus-wide Principal Investigator's Committee, which served as a conduit between faculty and campus administrators on research matters.

Dr. Hougas is remembered as an accomplished scientist, a pioneer in potato breeding and genetics, and a fair and firm administrator who contributed much to the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and to the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
Irwin Goldman