
**Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
On the Death of Professor Emeritus James R. Love**

Professor emeritus James R. Love passed away on February 25th, 2014 at Agrace Hospice in Madison, Wisconsin. He was 93 years old. Jim was born on September 20, 1920 on a farm outside of Rugby, ND to Lee and Gladys Love. He earned his B.Sc. degree in Chemistry at North Dakota State University (then North Dakota Agricultural College) in 1944. After a brief stint in the research department of a Chicago meat packing firm, Jim returned to North Dakota where he earned his teaching accreditation at Minot State University. He then taught science and mathematics for three years in North Dakota and Montana. In 1951, pursuing his interests in agriculture and science, he matriculated at the University of Wisconsin to earn his M.S. and Ph.D. in soil science by 1956. He immediately joined the rapidly-growing faculty in the Department of Soils (later Soil Science) in the (then) College of Agriculture. He was promoted to associate professor in 1960, and to full professor in 1972.

Jim was the face of soil science to countless undergraduates from numerous majors during his many years as the sole instructor of introductory soil science. In a sure manner, he conveyed the importance and beauty of soil, while never cutting corners on the difficulty of the subject. Professor Love also founded the turf and grounds specialization at UW-Madison in 1961. He selected the rigorous and well-rounded curriculum from courses across campus, and designed needed specialized courses. This research and teaching focus on recreational grasslands proliferated across the US Land Grant university system in the decades that followed, and continues to this day. Professor Love shepherded the turf and grounds program, advising over 100 undergraduate students and connecting them to positions of responsibility in a grateful industry. His dedication to teaching and undergraduate advising set a standard in the college, seldom attained. He retired in 1986.

Professor Love authored numerous articles and extension bulletins on the fundamentals of turfgrass management that proved vitally important to turfgrass managers, covering topics including lawn fertilization, the physical properties of soil, how to calibrate a spreader, soil sampling, and conducting your own turf experiments. In 1962, he published the first visual guide to mineral deficiency symptoms in turfgrass. To do this he grew various species of turfgrasses in a range of nutrient environments and systematically documented how deficiencies were manifested. Shortly after publication, O.J. Noer, a world-renowned turfgrass agronomist, wrote “An example of magnesium deficiency was observed this spring in the Montreal district which would have been baffling except for [Professor Love’s] study.”

Dr. Love is considered by many to be the father of scientific turfgrass management in Wisconsin and was responsible for molding and influencing many of the industry’s leaders. He was awarded the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America’s “Colonel John Morley Distinguished Service Award” in 1987. Dr. Love was widely loved and admired by his students. He once told Monroe Miller “You can’t pay me back; you can only pass it on to those who come after you.” The strength of and industry support for the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s turf program will be a lasting legacy of Dr. Love.

In retirement, Jim and his wife of 63 years, Nancy, traveled the world and covered much of the country in their motor home with their trusty cocker spaniel, who Dr. Love said had its own seat belt in the vehicle. After visiting much of the USA in search of a winter residence, they eventually settled on the Florida Panhandle, but were always delighted to return home to Madison after winter. Besides traveling, Jim was an avid card player, gardener, reader, geologist, and sports enthusiast. Jim was a loyal alum of the UW-Madison soil science community, rarely missing a social event at the department.

Respectfully submitted by the Memorial Committee:

Douglas J. Soldat, chair

William L. Bland

Monroe S. Miller