



Robert E. Benoit

September 25, 1934 - November 18, 2020

Robert E Benoit, Ph. D.

Robert E Benoit (Bob) of Blacksburg VA, 86, passed away on Nov 18 from complications of diabetes. Bob was born in Enosburg Falls, Vermont to the late Harland and Elma Myott Benoit and raised on the family dairy farm. The first in his family to go to college, he earned his B.S. in Agronomy from the University of Vermont. After active duty in the Army, he earned an MS and Ph.D. in Microbiology from Rutgers University.

Bob joined the faculty of the Virginia Tech Biology Department in the Microbiology section, teaching thousands of students over 40 years. He enjoyed advising the Lambda Chi fraternity. Even in retirement, he was an active member of the American Society of Microbiology. He conducted research in Antarctica and Alaska, but teaching was his passion. He taught Biomedical Ethics until just before his death.

Bob was active in Rotary and served as a Montgomery-Floyd Library trustee. He loved music, especially Opera, and sang in the Blacksburg Masterchorale. For 27 years, he read comics for the blind. He loved a competitive game of handball, and once ran the Richmond Marathon in 3 hours and 21 minutes.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Jean; his children Beth Benoit of Chelmsford MA, Paul Benoit of Lyman NH, and Denise Benoit-Turner of Middletown MD; his grandchildren Ethan, John Robert, Bryce, David, and James; his brothers Paul of East Hartford CT and Larry of Enosburg Falls VT, and nieces Betsy, Nickelle, Carmen, and Megan.

A celebration of life will happen post-pandemic. In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial donation to the Blacksburg Masterchorale (BMC P.O. Box 11852 Blacksburg, VA 24060) or to the Robert E and Jean L Benoit Scholarship (c/o University of Vermont Foundation, 411 Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401).

Comments



“ Dear Jean & Family; I just learned of Bob's death and was terribly saddened. I have special fond memories of times spent in 4-H showing cattle in local events and at Eastern States Exposition in MA. beginning back in the 50's. He was such a talented friend whom I always admired. We were even in each other's weddings . As I am writing this tribute there are so many flashbacks to memories that you, Jean, were also a part of. Bob, may you rest in peace, my friend. "May the angels lead you into paradise; may the martyrs come to welcome you and take you to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem." (Funeral Mass liturgy)

With deepest sympathy . . .

Steve Ratte

Fairfax, VT December 04 at 11:15 PM

Steve Ratte - December 04, 2020 at 11:19 PM



“ Dr. Benoit was my professor, mentor and friend while I was a student at Virginia Tech in the early 1980s. His passion and love of teaching was one of the reasons I continued my education and went on to teach at several midwestern universities. He instilled in me the importance of being passionate about science and sharing that passion with my students. Thank you Dr. Bob Benoit. You are missed.

Dr. Ann-Marie Guteski Hamblin - December 02, 2020 at 01:05 PM



“ I was a fellow member of Rotary with Bob. He was so intelligent and loved his family home. We shared this trait as I live mine. He was a joy to talk with and will be sorely missed.

Jo Lynn Keston - November 29, 2020 at 07:56 PM



“ On behalf of the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity at VA TECH, they over 1,000 brothers that "Doc" has touched and nurtured over the many years, are deeply sadden by the lose of this great man and teacher. Doc will always remain in our hearts and daily lives as we remember the wonderful lessons he taught us all. Sigma Beta.

Lambda Chi Alpha Alumni association at VA TECH

Barry Buschow - November 29, 2020 at 03:38 PM