



## Dan Bert Hodge

November 29, 1938 - July 20, 2022

Dan was born and raised in North Manchester, Indiana and died on July 20, 2022 in Blacksburg, VA at the age of 83. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Lorraine Ann Sandbakken Hodge; son Mark (Washington, DC); son Tim (Blacksburg, VA); Tim's wife, Julie Dryden Hodge; and two grandchildren, Laura and Robert.

Dan discovered the world of short wave radio in junior high school. This, ultimately, led to his career in electrical engineering. He earned amateur and commercial radio operators licenses during high school. His first "real" job was as an announcer and transmitter engineer at WIBC in Danville, IL. He also worked part time at radio and TV stations WFBM, WIBC, and WBAA during his undergraduate years at Purdue. While in graduate school, he worked at Collins Radio and MIT Lincoln Lab during summers. He also met and married Lorraine during graduate school. Upon completion of his PhD, he and Lorraine spent a year in Oslo, Norway, where he was a Royal Norwegian Postdoctoral Fellow at the Norwegian Defense Research Establishment. Subsequently, he was an electrical engineering faculty member at Purdue, Illinois, Ohio State, and Virginia Tech. Some of his research activities related to the effect of rainfall on radio wave propagation. As a consequence, he also served as a Visiting Professor of Meteorology at McGill University. He served as Department Head at the Virginia Tech Bradley Department of Electrical Engineering and Department Chair at the OSU Department of Electrical

Engineering where he retired.

Dan flunked retirement twice, working fifteen more years. Dan and Lorraine moved to McLean, VA, where he served as a Program Officer at the National Science Foundation and as Associate Executive Director for Accreditation at the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. He was a Life Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and a Fellow of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. He received the IEEE Meritorious Achievement Award in Accreditation Activities, the IEEE Meritorious Service Citation, and the NSF Director's Award for Management Excellence.

Dan was a consultant to more than twenty-five companies and government agencies. He also served as a consultant in forensic engineering. In addition, he served as Chair of the National Electrical Engineering Department Heads Association and as a member of the IEEE Educational Activities Board.

In 2011, Dan finally retired, and he and Lorraine moved to Woods Edge, Warm Hearth Village, Blacksburg, VA. Here he served on the Board of Directors of the Woods Edge Condominium Association

As a boy, Dan enjoyed Boy Scout activities. He earned the Explorer Scout Silver Award while in high school. Later, both Dan and Lorraine served as volunteer leaders for Indian Guides, Cub Scouts, and Boy Scouts. He was an inveterate collector ranging from hats to antique tools. Dan took piano lessons as a boy and studied piano at the Jordan Conservatory in Indianapolis. He was pleased when he entered retirement and found that he could recover many of his piano playing skills after many years of little practice. He also enjoyed building models, particularly train and ship models. Finally, he enjoyed his friends and family and, particularly, helping them when he could.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Dan & Lorraine Hodge  
Department Head Discretionary Endowed Fund in the VT Foundation or to the  
Warm Hearth Foundation.

Arrangements handled by McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Drive  
S.W, Blacksburg, VA

# Tribute Wall

“ Dan Hodge

*I first met Dan Hodge at the 1970 IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society Symposium, held at The Ohio State University. He was demonstrating a receiver used to study satellite millimeter wave propagation through rain. I had no idea that our careers would be intertwined for more than 50 years.*

*Warren Stutzman and I started the Satellite Communications Group in 1971 with a grant from the NASA Millimeter Wave Propagation Program. It was already funding Dan and Wolfhard Vogel of the University of Texas at Austin, and we joined them as the third NASA-sponsored receiving site. While in some sense Dan, Wolf, and I were competing for money from the same pot, we became and remained good friends and collaborators. Dan provided us with the software that steered our dish antenna, and he was a great help in getting our site established.*

*When Dan became VT department head a few years later, we joked that we had eliminated a competitor by hiring him.*

*Dan succeeded Bill Blackwell. Bill served for 20 years, and he created our modern department. He took it from a 1950 department – a rigorous undergraduate curriculum, a major emphasis on electric power systems, and few faculty members with a Ph.D. – to a broad based department with sponsored research covering all the main professional specialties with Ph.D. faculty. Dan raised us to the next level – national recognition. To cite a few examples, he pushed us to sponsor major IEEE meetings, beginning with the 1987 Antennas and Propagation International Symposium. He encouraged faculty involvement in accreditation bodies. He encouraged faculty to seek national IEEE positions and honors.*

*Dan also strengthened the department internally, hiring more top quality people. He rationalized our committee structure and processes. All faculty members put their resumes in a standard format. Dan created the first named professorships. He secured the*

*Bradley Endowment and set up the ways that money was to be spent, instituting the Bradley Scholarship and Fellowship programs and the annual Bradley Banquet.*

*Dan was a quantitative manager, seemingly with a spread sheet for everything. He was both decisive and a good listener. He gave faculty excellent career advice. For example he encouraged me to seek an appointment as an IEEE Congressional Fellow, something that determined the trajectory of the second half of my career. He had a nice sense of humor. One of his sayings when something went wrong was “Well, that opens all of the cans!”*

*When Dan became department head, Whittemore Hall had only three floors. Six had been planned but only three were initially funded. Dan oversaw the planning and occupancy of the fourth, fifth, and sixth floors. This required a complete revision of the existing blueprints. They were obsolete, including laboratories and other spaces for things we no longer did. He fought off architects who wanted an open plan building – a popular fad at the time. The College of Veterinary Medicine was built that way and later had to be completely redone!*

*Dan’s influence continues in so many ways. Many of our prominent alumni were Bradley Fellows and Scholars. Dan hired many eminent faculty members. Most of all, he put us on the world map.*

*Charles W. Bostian  
Alumni Distinguished Professor Emeritus  
July 25, 2022*

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**CHARLES BOSTIAN** - July 25, 2022 at 08:43 PM

BS

“ *Bill and Vivian Stephenson purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Dan Bert Hodge.*



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**Bill and Vivian Stephenson** - July 23, 2022 at 11:30 AM

FS

“ *For several decades, Dan had a major impact on electrical engineering education in the USA. His term as Head of EE at Virginia Tech saw the department grow in stature. Dan created a more efficient administrative structure that allowed him to play a critical role in planning and overseeing a doubling in the size of Whittemore Hall. He also used the new space with a fair and effective allocation to productive research groups.*

*Dan guided and participated in the hiring new faculty which almost doubled the tenure-track ranks. In addition, he oversaw the creation of The Bradley Department of EE and the establishment of prestigious undergraduate and graduate student awards. Somehow, he also found the time to edit a most impressive history of the department.*

*In short, Dan Hodge left a huge legacy in Blacksburg before going on to be Head of EE at The Ohio State University, then playing significant roles at both the National Science Foundation and The Accreditation Board for Engineering Education and Technology.*

*Dan was a very caring and personable leader whom I feel privileged to have known him. My deepest sympathy to Lorraine and the Hodge family. Bill Stephenson*

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**Frederick W Stephenson** - July 23, 2022 at 11:21 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Dan Bert Hodge.*



July 23, 2022 at 02:57 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dan Bert Hodge.*



July 22, 2022 at 08:23 PM



“ *Larry and Barbara Burton purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dan Bert Hodge.*



**Larry and Barbara Burton** - July 22, 2022 at 05:03 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dan Bert Hodge.*



July 22, 2022 at 03:28 PM

LM

“ *Lamine Mili purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Dan Bert Hodge.*



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**Lamine Mili** - July 22, 2022 at 03:15 PM