



Fred Donald (Don) Bloss

May 30, 1920 - April 22, 2020

Fred Donald (Don) Bloss of Blacksburg, died on April 22, 2020. He was born in Chicago on May 30, 1920 to the late Fred Martin and Adele Clara (nee Ludwig) Bloss. A 3-year old son, Donald Keith Bloss, preceded him in death. Surviving are Louise (Land) Bloss, his beloved wife of 74 years—three daughters and their spouses: Terry and Robert Kensler of San Juan, P.R.; Janet and Ronald Shuff of Southlake, TX; and Jill Bloss of Christiansburg, VA—four grandchildren (and spouses): Andrew (Marian) Kensler, Jonathan (Jennifer) Kensler, Matthew and Suzanne Shuff, and four great grandchildren: Daniel, Veronica, Phoebe, and Edward Kensler. His sister, Geraldine Zorn of Park Ridge, Illinois pre-deceased him.

He graduated from the University of Chicago: B.S., 1947 (Phi Beta Kappa); M.S., 1949; and Ph. D, 1951. He served as a Professor of Geology at the University of Tennessee (1951-57), Southern Illinois University (1957-67), and at Virginia Tech from 1967 until he retired in 1991. In 1972 he was appointed Alumni Distinguished Professor, the first at Virginia Tech to be so honored. From 1972 to 1975 he served as the Executive Editor of *The American Mineralogist*, the world's foremost mineralogical publication and official journal of the Mineralogical Society of America. He also served the Society as Vice President (1976) and President (1977). In 1981-82 the University of New

Mexico selected him to occupy the State of New Mexico's first endowed chair, the Caswell Silver Distinguished Visiting Professor of Geology. From 1988-1990 he served as Chairman of the Department of Geological Sciences at Virginia Tech. His textbooks on optical crystallography, crystallography and crystal chemistry, the first of which appeared in 1961, were used worldwide and have since been acknowledged as "classics." The optical crystallography, translated into Spanish, was widely used in Spain and South America. The State Microscopical Societies of Illinois, Minnesota, and New York cited his contributions to optical microscopy. In 1988 the New York Society awarded him the Ernst Abbe Memorial Award, a silver medal that included Edwin Land as a previous recipient. Chess, a lifelong hobby, led to five books. With his wife Louise he was co-author of Donnie (1950-1954) and of three beautiful daughters (in order of appearance): Terry Kensler, Janet Shuff, and Jill Bloss. As a long-time member of Northside Presbyterian Church, he served as a deacon, elder, and trustee. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Northside. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG **13**. 11:00 AM.

Northside Presbyterian Church

Tribute Wall

CW

“ *Dear Bloss Family,
I just recently heard about the passing of Dr. Bloss. I was his administrative assistant when he was department chair of Geosciences. He was a wise and wonderful man--always so pleasant and personable. I send my condolences and hope your faith and fond memories will sustain you during this sad time.*

Carolyn Williams

Carolyn Williams - May 21, 2020 at 02:38 PM

JM

“ *My deepest condolences for the loss of a husband, dad & grandfather. Keeping the family in my thoughts!*
Jerilyn McCoy

Jerilyn McCoy - May 19, 2020 at 09:48 PM