



Edward D. Jones

May 8, 1920 – May 13, 2014

The Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology lost a dear friend and trusted colleague with the passing of Edward David Jones at the age of 94 on May 13, 2014 in St. Paul, MN with his family at his side.

Ed was born on May 8, 1920 in Fish Creek, WI to second- generation Welsh parents. He graduated from Sparta High School and was a member of the 1937 Sparta High School basketball team that advanced to the WI State Championship Finals. Thus began a lifelong love of sports. After working for two years, Ed enrolled in the College of Agriculture at the University of Wisconsin in Madison until the start of World War II.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps and was assigned to fly B- 17 bombers as a pilot in the Eighth Air Force. He flew 33 missions. He attained the rank of 1st Lieutenant and was awarded the European Theatre Ribbon with 3 Bronze Stars, Air Medal with 3 Oakleaf Clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross. After the war, he returned to the University of Wisconsin to complete his undergraduate education. As a sophomore at UW, Ed lettered in

both baseball and basketball. He played the position of forward on the 1941-42 Wisconsin Badgers NCAA Basketball Championship team. Prior to his death, he was the sole surviving member of the Badger's only NCAA National Basketball Championship team. On February 6, 2013, Ed was named 1941 National Champion Honorary Captain at the 75th Anniversary celebration during March Madness at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Ed obtained both his M.S. (Agronomy) and Ph.D. (Plant Pathology) at UW, and in 1958 he joined the Cornell University faculty as an assistant professor with responsibilities for potatoes and cereals. He was instrumental in the development of the Uihlein Farm of Cornell University located at Lake Placid, NY. While at Cornell, he pioneered the development of disease-free foundation potato seed stocks by tissue culture. He dedicated more than 30 years to research and development protocols that have been widely replicated. He became the first Henry and Mildred Uihlein Professor of Plant Pathology, an endowed chair at Cornell University in 1987. He chronicled the history of the Uihlein Farm with a book published in 2001. A career-long member of the Potato Association of America (PAA), Ed chaired the Potato Certification Committee that developed the initial standards for the first National Seed Potato Grade. He served as president of the PAA in 1983-84 and was named an Honorary Life Member in 1986.

During his life in New York, he was active in youth baseball, coaching numerous championship teams. He also acted as manager for several youth ice hockey travel teams. His positive influence served as a role model for many young athletes. Ed served as an off-ice hockey official at the 1980 Winter Olympic Games in Lake Placid and witnessed first-hand the Miracle on Ice.

Ed is survived by his wife of 66 years, Mrs. Barbara Jones; two daughters: Kathleen (Bill Smullen) and Jaclyn Jones; sons, E. Douglas (Tracy) Jones, Dr. David (Julie) Jones; thirteen grandchildren, two great-grandsons; sister-in-law, Sandra (John) Stanicek; nieces and nephews, and great nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his only sibling, Catherine Jones. Ed remained committed to church activities all his life. Because of his support of Welsh sacred music, he was named an Honorary Life Trustee of the Welsh Gymanfa Ganu (Hymn Festival) Association of Wisconsin.

Thomas A. Zitter; Keith L. Perry; William E. Fry