

# **MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS**

**John M. Bremner**

**Carl Ekberg, Jr.**

**J. Ronald George**

**Daniel L. Griffen, Jr.**

**Harry A. Kahn**

**Mary R. Kihl**

**Jaime Lacasa**

**Don Carlos Norton**

**Robert William “Bob” Shearer**

**Timothy Scott Stahly**

**Iowa State University Faculty Senate  
December 11, 2007**



**John M. Bremner**  
**January 18, 1922 – July 25, 2007**

John “Jack” M. Bremner, 85, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Agriculture and Agronomy, Iowa State University, died at home in Palm Desert, California, on July 25, 2007.

John M. Bremner was born January 18, 1922 in Dumbarton, Scotland, and attended the University of Glasgow, receiving a B.S. degree (1944) in Organic Chemistry. He earned the Ph.D. degree (1948) in Chemistry and the D.Sc. degree (1959) in Soil Chemistry from the University of London. In 1987, he was awarded an Honorary D.Sc. degree from the University of Glasgow.

During 1944-45, Dr. Bremner was a Carnegie Research Scholar at Glasgow University. He was then employed in the Chemistry Department at Rothamsted Experimental Station, England as Scientific Officer (1945-49), Senior Scientific Officer (1949-54), and Principal Scientific Officer (1954-59).

Bremner was already an internationally recognized scientist when he came to Iowa State University as an Associate Professor of Agronomy in 1959. He was promoted to Professor of Agronomy and Biochemistry in 1961. In 1975 he was named C. F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor in Agriculture at ISU. Jack retired in 1992.

During his career, Dr. Bremner was a Rockefeller Fellow to the U.S.A. (1957-58), Technical Expert for the International Atomic Energy Agency in Yugoslavia and Austria (1964-65), and Guggenheim Fellow in Australia and Japan (1968-69). “Most memorable” was a 1968 conference in Vatican City, sponsored by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

Numerous honors were bestowed on Dr. Bremner, including the ASA Soil Science Achievement Award (1967), ASA Fellow (1968), AAAS Fellow (1972), SSSA Fellow (1976), Alexander von Humboldt Medal and Award (1982), Bouyoucos Distinguished Career Award (1982), Iowa Governor’s Science Achievement Medal (1983), Iowa Academy of Science Distinguished Fellow (1984), AOAC Harvey Wiley Medal and Award (1984), Election to National Academy of Sciences (1984), ASA Agronomic Research Award (1985), ACS Spencer Medal and Award (1987), ACS Award for Advancement of Agricultural and Food Chemistry (1988), and ASA Environmental Quality Research Award (1990).

His research papers over a 50-year period made seminal contributions to the nitrogen and sulfur chemistry in soils and the analytical methods are described a “legendary” by his colleague Charles A. Black. He admired Bremner’s “commitment to clarity of thought and writing few can achieve”. Local, national, and international colleagues have honored his contributions with a myriad of citations of his research.

Dr. Bremner is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary; his son and daughter-in-law, Stuart and Sarah Bremner; his daughter and son-in-law Carol and Mike Einsidler; and two grandchildren.

He will rest in the Iowa State University Cemetery.



### **Carl Edwin Ekberg, Junior**

Carl Edwin Ekberg, Jr. was born on October 20, 1920, in Minneapolis, Minnesota and died May 30, 2007 in Ames, Iowa. In his 86 plus years of life, he was many things to many people – a family man, an outstanding student, a veteran of World War II, an athlete, a teacher, researcher, and administrator of engineers ( i.e. civil engineers). In fact, his very name, C.E. Ekberg was interpreted by his students and colleagues to really mean Civil Engineer Ekberg.

Carl's parents were Carl and Ruth (Olin) Ekberg of Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was one of their four children, all sons. Carl was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Robert. He is survived by his brothers, William of Bismarck, North Dakota and David of Squaw Lake, Minnesota. While an engineering undergraduate student, he met and later married Dorothy Heley of Fergus Falls, Minnesota on May 25, 1944. Dorothy was a student at Carleton College when they met.

Carl and Dorothy celebrated their 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary a few days before his death. Carl and Dorothy also have four children, two boys and two girls:

Carl (Patricia) Ekberg, III of Rutherford, Tennessee  
Gretchen Heley (Jurgen) Brommelhoff of Acton, Massachusetts  
Janet Heley Ekberg of San Rafael, California, and  
Thomas William Ekberg of Diamond, Washington

Carl was an enthusiastic and very successful student. He graduated from Marshall High School in Minneapolis in 1939. Carl enrolled as an engineering student at the University of Minnesota in September 1939. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering in 1943, having developed a lifelong interest in structural engineering and the use of concrete and reinforced concrete in structures such as buildings, roads, and bridges. Carl would have been devastated by the structural failure of the Interstate 35W Bridge so close to his beloved university.

Carl was also an athlete, though he seldom talked about these accomplishments with his colleagues. Many of his colleagues liked to discuss Michigan football in the days of Tom Harmon and Forrest Evashevski until we discovered that Carl Ekberg, Jr. was a tight end on the Minnesota Bernie Bierman football teams that “beat” the Michigan teams during the period Carl was an undergraduate.

With his undergraduate studies completed, Carl was commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy in July 1943. He served on the West Coast and on a seaplane tender in the Asiatic-Pacific theater. He and Dorothy were married in 1944 and he was promoted to the rank of Lt. (jg) in January 1945. He continued to serve until he was discharged in February 1946.

Carl returned to the University of Minnesota as an Instructor in the Department of Mathematics and Mechanics for the period from June 1940 through September 1951. At the same time he was a graduate student in structural engineering earning a Master of Science in Civil Engineering in 1947 and continued toward the doctoral degree. He resigned his Instructorship in 1951 to join the faculty at North Dakota State University as an Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering from September 1951 through June 1953. In the summers of 1948, 1949, 1950, and 1951 he was employed as a structural engineer by the Soo Line Railroad in Minneapolis. In September 1953 he joined the faculty at Lehigh University as an Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering. While there, he completed the requirements for and was awarded a Ph.D. in Structural Engineering by the University of Minnesota in 1954. In July 1956, he was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at Lehigh and became the Chairman of the Structural Concrete Division of the Fritz Laboratory there. In 1959, he joined the engineering faculty at Iowa State University on September 1, promoted to the rank of Professor and Head of the Department of Civil and Construction Engineering. When he relinquished that administrative position on December 31, 1984 and returned as Professor, he was then the longest-serving leader of a civil engineering department in the United States – 25 years. During the period from January 1, 1985, through June 30, 1985 Carl served as a Visiting Professor while on an Iowa State University Faculty Improvement Leave at Arizona State University. He used this period to visit researchers there and at other universities to enhance his knowledge of the status of research in his areas of interest. He retired on October 31, 1988 when he became Emeritus Professor of Civil Engineering.

Carl was a teacher both of undergraduate and graduate students at North Dakota State University, Lehigh University, Iowa State and Arizona State, and participated at many national and international conferences. He served as a academic advisor for six Master’s degree candidates and eleven doctoral candidates at Iowa State University, two as co-major professor with another faculty member. One thing stands out in Carl’s list of publications resulting from the research he supervised. No matter that the research ideas, directions, and results were fundamentally his own, Carl saw to it that his students were recognized as the senior authors of the refereed papers that resulted to introduce the research results and the students to the profession.

Carl published about 25 significant research papers under his own name and together with his students and engineering colleagues. In addition, Carl was issued two patents covering research ideas generated in his research.

- He was a Member, Fellow and Life Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He was President of the Iowa section (1975-1976) and Chairman and/or member of many of its research committees.

- He was a Member and Life Member of the American Society for Engineering Education and served as Vice Chairman and Chairman of its Civil Engineering Division.
- He was a Member, Fellow, and Honorary Member of the American Concrete Institute and served as President of the Iowa-Minnesota Chapter, as Member of Subcommittee G – Prestressed Concrete of the ACI Committee 318 and Chairman of Committee Z15 – Fatigue of Concrete. He served in 1967 as the General Chairman of the Annual ACI Meeting in Des Moines, Iowa.
- He was a Member and Life Member of the American Railway Engineering Association and served as a member of Committee 30 – Impact and bridge stresses and Chair of Committee 24 – Engineering Education.
- He was, from 1974-1982, a Member of the American Iron and Steel Institute and ad hoc task group to prepare tentative recommendations for the design of cold-formed steel decking as reinforcement for concrete floor slabs.
- He was a Member of the Prestressed Concrete Institute.
- He was a Professional Member of the Post-Tensioning Institute.
- He was a Member and Life Member of the National Society of Professional Engineers and a Member (1976-1979) of the Executive Committee of the Professional Engineers in Education Practice Division, and served as Vice-Chairman of the North Central V Region.
- He was a Member (1968-1975) of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering.
- He was a Member (1963-1969) of Committee DC3 – Concrete Bridge Structures – of the Highway Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences.

All of this Society Work was undertaken to highlight the teaching and research activities of the faculty and students in civil engineering at Iowa State University and so that he could contribute directly in applying the technology developed at Iowa State University to improving the practice of civil engineering. His wife and children strongly supported him so that he could set strong goals for his students and his faculty.

Carl's scholarly abilities were recognized by scientists and engineers by his election to honorary and professional organizations – i.e. Chi Epsilon in 1943, Sigma Xi (Life Member) in 1957, Tau Beta Pi in 1960, Phi Kappa Phi (Emeritus Life Member) in 1961 and to the Iowa State University Osborne Club. Osborne Club holds monthly meetings so that faculty members recognized for their research can keep up-to-date on their colleagues' research in other departments and colleges.

Carl became a member of the Collegiate Presbyterian Church in November of 1959 and served both as an Elder (1964-1966) and as a Trustee (1978-1980).

Carl was a Rotarian, joining the Ames Noon Rotary Club in 1959. He served as a Director in 1965-1967 and again in 1974-1976. His fascination with the goals and accomplishments of Rotary resulted in his bringing two of his colleagues into Rotary as “Additional Actives.”

He was always truly delighted when his department’s students joined engineering faculties around the world, when they were recognized for outstanding research performance, and when they took leading roles in professional societies. In other words, Carl reveled in the promotion of the accomplishments of hundreds who had a connection with Iowa State University and the department which he headed for 25 years.

Carl loved his family, his profession, his department, and ISU. We will have occasion to remember his contributions in so many ways.

Submitted by: Max Porter, Hans Van Leeuwen, and James Alleman

Credit: a significant portion of this resolution was prepared also for the Ames Rotary Club, by Bob Baumann, Max Porter, and Mel Larson.



**J. Ronald George**  
**April 28, 1940 – July 1, 2007**

J. Ronald George, 67, Professor Emeritus, Iowa State University, died at Mary Greeley Medical Center, Ames, Iowa on July 1, 2007.

Dr. George was born April 28, 1940 in Pasco, Washington, and attended Washington State University, receiving a B.S. degree with honors in Agronomy in 1962. He earned the M.S. degree (1964) in Crop Physiology and Ph.D. degree (1966) in Forage Crop Physiology from Purdue University.

From 1966 to 1969, he worked for the American Potash Institute as Midwest Agronomist located in Ames, Iowa. In late 1969 he joined the Iowa State University Department of Agronomy where he remained until retirement in 1997.

During his career at Iowa State his innovative and inspiring teaching touched more than 9,000 students in 13 different Agronomy courses. He advised 20-25 undergraduate students annually, served as major professor for 30 graduate students, and mentored more than 80 graduate teaching assistants and instructors in his courses. His expertise and interests also were fulfilled as faculty advisor to the ISU Agronomy Club and the College of Agriculture Student Council on numerous occasions.

He received 18 major awards for his teaching and advising excellence, including the CSSA Crop Science Teaching Award (1998), Outstanding Faculty Advisor in Agriculture Award (1974), Raymond and Mary Baker Agronomic Excellence Award (1978), AMOCO Outstanding Teacher Award (1979), State of Iowa Legislative Award for Teaching Excellence (1989), and Louis Thompson Award for Scholarly Achievement in Teaching (1997). He was a Fellow in ASA, CSSA, and NACTA. and received recognition from the American Forage and Grassland Council with the Merit Award.

George was a recognized expert in forage fertilization; pasture establishment and renovation; and physiology, production, and management of warm season grasses, principally switchgrass. He authored or co-authored over 250 publications. He also served on the Boards of Directors for ASA and CSSA, and held leadership positions in the Iowa Forage and Grassland Council, Iowa Fertilizer and Chemical Association, and Iowa Academy of Science.



He is survived by Ethel, his wife of 45 years; his two children, daughter Sheri (Randy) Cooper and son Matt; and two grand children Ben and Max Cooper. Contributions may be made to the Ron and Ethel George Scholarship in Agronomy, at ISU Foundation, 2505 Elwood Drive, Ames, Iowa 50014. Condolences can be sent to Mrs. Ethel George, 212 Parkridge Circle, Ames, Iowa 50014.



**Daniel L. Griffen, Jr.**

Daniel Griffen passed away in March 2007. He lived in Ames, Iowa.

After release from the U.S. Navy following the conclusion of World War II, Dan enrolled at Iowa State and received his degree in general engineering in 1950. He then became a part-time industrial engineer at Armstrong Rubber Company and a full-time law student at Drake University in Des Moines. He received his law degree in 1953 and continued his work at Armstrong Rubber. He was also admitted to the Iowa Bar Association that year.

In 1956 Dan joined the industrial engineering faculty as an instructor and was promoted to professor in 1967. In 1961 he received the M.S. in engineering valuation from Iowa State University. Dan's teaching concentrated in the engineering law and engineering management areas. His outstanding classroom performance was recognized early in his teaching career and he was the College of Engineering Professor of the Year in 1961.

In 1962 Professor Griffen became the executive director of the Iowa State Research Foundation and continued in this capacity until shortly before his retirement. While serving in this role he continued to teach one class per term; clearly demonstrating his love for teaching and students.

Dan was active in the American Society of Engineering Education, the Iowa Patent Law Association, and the country, state and national Bar Associations. He was a member of the Knights of St. Patrick, Cardinal Key, Alpha Pi Mu, and received the ISU Faculty Citation in 1973.

Dan's legal talents were in great demand at Iowa State University and he served on numerous university committees. He was very generous in counseling individual students and faculty members regarding engineering legal problems and personal matters.

His professional career was an outstanding demonstration of a successful combination of the engineering and law fields. He retired in 1990 and was on the faculty for 34 years.

Professor Daniel L. Griffen, Jr., is greatly missed by his wife, Jean, of Ames; their children and families; and his colleagues in industrial engineering at Iowa State University.

### **HARRY A. KAHN (1922-2007)**

Harry Kahn, who taught in the formerly designated Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures (now the Department of World Languages and Cultures), died on September 8, 2007 at the Franciscan Health Center in Duluth, Minnesota after a long illness. Professor Kahn was a graduate of Denfeld High School, the Duluth Teachers College, and the University of Iowa, where he received his Masters Degree and completed course work for the Ph.D. His academic specialty was Gérard de Nerval, a 19<sup>th</sup> century French poet claimed by both the Romantic and Surrealist movements. In 1963, Professor Kahn accepted a teaching position in French at Iowa State at the rank of instructor. He was promoted to an assistant professor of French in 1967, and then to associate professor in 1976. Professor Kahn was a member of the Phi Sigma Iota Honor Society and various other professional organizations. He was adept at presenting to his students the culture of France in its many manifestations, including food, art, music, literature, and history. After twenty-five years in the classroom at Iowa State, Professor Kahn retired in 1987. He will be remembered as an ardent Francophile, admired and respected by both his colleagues and students.



## **MARY R. KIHIL**

Dr. Mary R. Kihl, a former Professor of Community and Regional Planning, passed away on October 16, 2007. She moved to Arizona State University in 1996. While at Iowa State she served as the Associate Dean of the College of Design.

Dr. Kihl received her PhD from Pennsylvania State University in history, MA from the University of Michigan, and Master of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to coming to Iowa State, Dr. Kihl served as an Associate Professor of Community and Regional Planning at the University of Nebraska, and an Assistant Professor and Director of the Center for Appalachian Regional Studies at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

Dr. Kihl was recognized as a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners in 2003, and earlier this year she received the leadership Award by AZTech for “demonstrating academic and research excellence.” She was involved in many organizations including the Transportation research Board of the National Research Council, American Planning Association, American Society of Landscape Architects, Advanced Public Transportation System of ITS America, Urban Land Institute, and Maricopa Association of Governments.

Dr. Kihl is widely published in the areas of rural transportation planning and public transit. She was dedicated to her students and scholarly activities, and she believed in working hard to improve the human condition. She was known for her smile and for inspiring her students to do better. She is survived by her husband Young W. Kihl, Professor Emeritus of political Science at Iowa State, and her daughter Ann and son Christopher. She will be missed by her family, colleagues, friends, and hundreds of her students.



### **Jaime Lacasa**

Jaime Lacasa, associate professor emeritus of Spanish, passed away suddenly on November 17, 2007. Dr. Lacasa had retired from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Iowa State University in May, 2004 at which time he was granted emeritus status.

Professor Lacasa earned his Ph.D. in Sociology at Iowa State University and worked in the Department of Modern Languages, subsequently renamed the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, for 34 years. During his tenure in the department, Dr. Lacasa taught a remarkable variety of language courses, among these Latin, Classical Greek, Classical Hebrew, Quechua, and his native Spanish. Many of these courses were developed and taught for the first time under Dr. Lacasa's initiative.

Throughout the years, Dr. Lacasa was engaged in scholarship focusing on foreign language pedagogy. During the 1970s and 1980s, Dr. Lacasa, together with his collaborator Dr. Judith Noble Lacasa, authored several pedagogical books for Spanish language learning, as well as a textbook that used extensive audio materials, an innovation at this period of time in the discipline. The latter part of Dr. Lacasa's career was dedicated to language in cultural context, primarily study of the languages, literatures, and cultures of the indigenous peoples of the Andes. His encyclopedic knowledge of multiple Andean languages and cultures allowed him to engage in scholarship in an often ignored sector of Hispanic studies.

At the time of his death, Dr. Lacasa was finalizing his work on a multi-language encyclopedic Quechua dictionary, as well as a revision of his *Introduction to Quechua: Language of the Andes*, co-authored with Judith Noble Lacasa. His dedication to linguistic research and his body of published scholarship remain a valuable legacy to the discipline of Hispanic studies.

## Don Carlos Norton



Don Carlos Norton, 84, of Ames, died Wednesday, April 18, 2007 of ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease).

Don was born May 22, 1922, in Toledo, Ohio. He grew up in Toledo and attended the University of Toledo after graduating from high school. His college education was put on hold while he served his country in World War II. He performed three years of military service in the U.S. Army, where he was part of the 411 Regiment in the 103 Infantry Division. After the war, he returned to college and received a Bachelor of Science degree in plant pathology from the University of Toledo in 1947. He continued his education and later received a doctorate in plant pathology from the Ohio State University in 1950. After graduation, he joined the faculty at Texas A&M University in the Department of Plant Physiology and Pathology. He remained at Texas A&M University through 1958. Don joined the faculty at Iowa State University in 1959 as a plant

pathologist where he specialized in the study of corn nematodes. His extensive research accomplishments remain of high impact today. During his tenure in the profession, he served for six years as the editor of the Journal of Plant Disease. He also served for three years as the treasurer for the Society of Nematologists and became a Fellow of that society in 1989 as recognition for his outstanding contributions in Nematology. He retired as professor emeritus in plant pathology in 1989.



**Robert William "Bob" Shearer (1920-2007)**

Robert (Bob) William Shearer, 86, died Monday, October 22, 2007 of complications from a stroke while living at Northcrest Retirement Center in Ames. Bob was born Oct. 30, 1920, in Ames, to Phineas and Mary Shearer. He graduated from Iowa State University in 1942 with a degree in chemical engineering. During World War II, he worked on the Manhattan Project while working for the Mallinckrodt Company in St. Louis, Mo. He worked for Mallinckrodt for more than 20 years before returning to Ames in 1964 to teach chemical engineering at ISU. He also worked with ISU's Center for Industrial Research and Service until he retired in 1987.

In the 1950's and 1960's, the Chemical Engineering Department carried out a Junior Inspection Trip each spring to St. Louis. Among the companies visited each year was Mallinckrodt Company. Bob was our contact and host at Mallinckrodt, did on-campus recruiting for Mallinckrodt at Iowa State, and gave occasional invited lectures

When the Center for Industrial Research and Service was formed, ISU successfully recruited Bob to a joint appointment in CIRAS and the Chemical Engineering Department. In ChE, Bob proved to be an effective teacher of introductory courses and was a popular student advisor. At CIRAS, he became an early leader in the development of statewide consortia and technical conferences. One of his most successful efforts was to bring together the many small companies manufacturing plastic products in Iowa. Collectively, and under Bob's leadership, they were able to publish a newsletter, organize conferences, and promote the rapid growth of the plastics industry. Always outgoing and friendly, Bob was a valued faculty colleague, enjoying the respect of his students as a teacher and as a concerned and knowledgeable advisor.

Bob was a member of the SAE fraternity, AIChE, Tau Beta Pi, and Ames Rotary. He is survived by his wife, Harriette Elizabeth (Betty), to whom he was married for 65 years; their four children, Steve Shearer, of Tampa, Fla., Carla (Vita) Blomo, of Sacramento, Calif., Barbara (Dennis) Linderbaum, of West Des Moines, and Jim Shearer, of San Francisco; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Adapted from Ames Tribune obituary 10/24/07 and notes by George Burnet 11/1/07.



### **Timothy Scott Stahly**

Dr. Timothy “Tim” Scott Stahly, 57, of Ames, Iowa, died Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at University Hospitals and Clinic in Iowa City, Iowa.

Tim was born May 10, 1949 at Huron, South Dakota, the son of Vernon and Frances (Miner) Stahly. He was united in marriage to Sharon Kay Chenoweth on August 13, 1966 in Mitchell, South Dakota. Sharon preceded Tim in death on July 9, 2004. Tim attended rural school in South Dakota and was the first person to finish his senior year of high school while a freshman at South Dakota State University where he earned his B.S. and Master’s Degree. He earned his Ph.D. in swine nutrition at the University of Nebraska. Dr. Stahly taught at the University of Kentucky for 16 years before joining the faculty at Iowa State University in 1991. He was a researcher and consultant in swine nutrition. Dr. Stahly’s innovative research greatly benefited the swine industry. His research focused on the effects of genetics, health status, and environmental conditions on the pig’s requirements for energy, amino acids, and B-complex vitamins. The practice of adjusting diets to environmental conditions, health status, and genetic background of pigs is accepted worldwide and much of this traces back to Dr. Stahly’s discoveries. Many of the growth models available in the swine industry today use information developed by his research. Dr. Stahly was in high demand as a speaker at technical conferences and symposia in the United States and abroad and had given papers at 85 conferences in 10 years. In 1983, Dr. Stahly received a patent for improving the metabolic stability and survival of neonatal pigs.

Dr. Stahly was active in the ASAS, serving as Midwestern Section president, was a member of the ASA board of directors, served on the editorial board of the “Journal of Animal Science” and was a member of the Collegiate Presbyterian of Ames.

Tim enjoyed his grandchildren and finding humor in everyday life. He had an enjoyment for horses and hosting Kentucky Derby parties at his home in Ames. An avid pheasant hunter, Tim loved going home to the ranch in South Dakota.

He is survived by a daughter: Lisa Stahly of Fairfax, California; 2 sons: Charles Stahly of Lexington, Kentucky, Ben Stahly of Ames, Iowa; 2 grandchildren: Dylan, who lived with Tim, and Althea; 1 sister: Louise Bauman of Huron, South Dakota; and 3 brothers; Michael Stahly of Cavour, South Dakota, Steven Stahly of Naples, Florida and Daniel Stahly of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Tim was preceded in death by his parents and wife, Sharon.