

2009 WSSA Committee Report to Members Summary for 2009 and Action Plan for 2010

Committee Code and Name: W9 Necrology Committee

Committee Chair: Wesley Everman

Board Coordinator: Vanelle Peterson

Committee Members Rotating Off:
Raj Prasad - C

Appropriate Replacements:
Currently searching

2009 Summary of Activities

What were the committee's goals for 2009?

None.

List the committee's accomplishments in 2009:

Collected obituary reports for each member society.

Ellery Knake - attached

What information was posted on the WSSA website?

None.

How much funds were requested? How much was spent?

None.

What was the impact of the committee activities/accomplishments on the following:
membership, publication, policy, legislation, and/or education?

None?

What is the current state of the committee's projects and activities?

Ongoing

2010 Plan for Committee Activities

Goals for 2010: None

Plan of Action: None

What is needed to further the goals of the committee/project?

Nothing at this time

Recommendations for Board/Society Action:

Funds requested for 2010: None

Other requests for the Board: None

Ellery Knake:

PITTSFIELD - Ellery L. Knake, 81, of Pittsfield, formerly of Champaign, died Sunday, March 1, 2009, at 11 a.m. at the Eastside Healthcare and Rehab Center, Pittsfield.

He was born Aug. 26, 1927, in Gibson City to Louis Franz and Wilhelmina (Minnie) Dorthea Behrens Knake. He married Colleen "Connie" Mary Wilken on June 23, 1951, in Gilman, and she preceded him in death in 2005.

Ellery was a professor of Agronomy at the University of Illinois for 30-plus years. He served his country in the Army from 1945 to 1946.

He was a member of the St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Urbana, and a member of the Knights of Columbus with a 3rd degree.

Ellery received the following: 1976-1977 Who's Who of America-agronomist, educator. B.S. 1949, M.S. (Wright Fellow) 1950, and Ph.D 1960 all from the University of Illinois, U of IL, Urbana 1956-1960, asst. professor dept of agronomy, 1960-64, assoc. professor, 1964-69, professor weed science., 1969-. Second v.p. N Central Weed Conference 1969, 1st v.p., 1970, pres. 1971. Recipient Ciba-Geigy award for outstanding contributions to agriculture, 1972; Educator Award Midwest Agriculture Chemical Assn., 1975; Member American Society Agronomy (Corps and Soils magazine Best Article Award 1967), Weed Science Society of America (vp.1972, president elect 1973, Pres., Chairman of the Board 1974, Outstanding Extension Worker Award 1972; editorial board Herbicide Handbook), Iroquois County Historical Society charter life member, Nabor House Fraternity Alumni, Sigma Xi, Phi Eta Sigma, Alpha Tau Alpha, Alpha Zeta, Phi Kappa Phi Gamma Sigma Delta, Epsilon Sigma Phi. Contributing editor to professional journals, Feature editor Weeds Today magazine 1972-1973.

Surviving are two sons, Gary Louis (Jean) Knake, Pleasant Hill, and Kim Paul (Sue Connelly), Longmont, Colo.; one sister, Mrs. Twylla Mae Kemple, Bend, Ore.; two grandchildren, Skylar Knake and Cimarron Knake; and one great-grandchild, Riley Bryant.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Colleen Knake, sister, Adeline, and a granddaughter, Chelsey Knake.

Mass of the Resurrection will be held on Thursday, March 5th, 2009, at 10 a.m. at the St. Patrick's Church in Urbana, with Fr. Joe Hogan officiating. Entombment will be at the Mt. Hope Cemetery, Champaign, following services. Visitation will be held one hour prior to Mass at the St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Urbana. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Urbana or to the Ronald McDonald House or donor's choice.

Condolences to the family may be sent to info@nieburfh.com. The Niebur Funeral Home in Pittsfield is handling the arrangements.

WSSA Press Release:

Blazing Trails: Dr. Ellery Knake Remembered for His Contributions to Weed Science

- *Thousands of students have followed in his footsteps*

LAWRENCE, Kansas — June 1, 2009 – As a graduate student and instructor at the University of Illinois, Ellery Knake was fascinated with weeds. He was determined to understand their impact on crops and to explore new control techniques to benefit farmers. When he died recently at age 81, Dr. Knake left behind a body of work that has made a lasting impact on both agriculture and weed science around the globe.

“At the time Ellery began his research, farmers typically tried to control weeds with tillage,” said Aaron Hager, associate professor and weed science extension specialist with the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. “But by doing so, they fueled a significant soil erosion problem. Ellery was one of the first scientists to spearhead sustainable agriculture by finding ways to reduce the need to till. As a result, he soon became an internationally recognized authority in weed science and conservation tillage.”

Knake demonstrated an unrivaled passion for innovation during his 37 years as a professor of weed science and agronomy (the study of field crop production and soil management). Much of his early research centered on how to evaluate the impact of weeds on crop yields and the use of soil residual herbicides that would prevent new weed establishment without tillage. Knake’s work involving crop yields, economics, the environment and the measurement of weed populations was an early precursor to integrated pest management (IPM) techniques that have become a mainstay of modern agriculture.

“Ellery’s enthusiasm for teaching and research was surpassed only by his commitment to farmers,” said Don Kuhlman, professor emeritus of agricultural entomology, University of Illinois. “He spent countless hours conducting experiments to find solutions to the weed problems they faced, and he shared his results broadly through newsletters, farm journals, workshops, conferences, radio and TV.”

To nurture the emerging field of weed science, Knake became active in both the North Central Weed Science Society and the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), which he led as its president. WSSA presented Knake with its very first “Outstanding Extension Award” and named him a Fellow for his significant contributions to both the organization and weed science. Though Knake spent his career in academia and extension work, he paved the way for a new generation of weed scientists who today work in a broad range of organizations – including universities, regulatory agencies, land management and conservation groups, consulting firms, and companies that specialize in weed management.

“Ellery was the consummate professional who blazed the trail for thousands of students who have since studied weeds and their impact on the environment,” said Lee Van Wychen, WSSA science policy director. “This next wave of weed scientists is poised to explore some of the most important issues facing our modern world – from the interactions among climate change, soil conservation and weed management techniques to how we can continue to feed a growing population as we lose cropland to urbanization.”