

A Celebration of Life

A close-up portrait of an elderly man with white hair and glasses, wearing a patterned suit jacket and a tie with a geometric pattern. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Ralph L. Davis
1921–2011

A Memorial Service Celebrating the Life of Ralph L. Davis

Prelude

Gary Tyner
Organist

Words of Welcome and Assurance

Invocation

Hymn

How Great Thou Art

147

The Record of Life

Scripture Readings

Meditation

Well done, good and faithful servant

Words of Commendation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Benediction

Postlude

For sharing memories of Ralph Davis today, we are grateful to Nancy Davis, William Davis, Kristen Edmundson and Mark Davis.

The family invites you to continue reflecting on and celebrating Ralph's life by joining them for a luncheon in Trimmer Hall following the service.

*Federated Church of West Lafayette
October 29, 2011 11:00 am*

Ralph L. Davis

Ralph Lanier Davis, 90, of West Lafayette, formerly of Clearwater, FL, died peacefully at University Place at 7:15 a.m. on Tuesday, September 27, 2011. He married Elizabeth "Betty" Simpson on August 20, 1943 in Chicago, IL and she preceded him in death. Born on September 10, 1921 in Kennedy, AL, he was the son of the late Oran Virdelle and Ethel Mae (Richardson) Davis.

He earned his B.A. degree from Auburn University, and his Masters and Ph.D. from Purdue with an emphasis in Agriculture, specifically Agronomy. He retired as a Commander in the U.S. Navy having served as a Navigator during WWII and in the Naval Reserve Research Unit at Purdue for a total of 20 years.

Dr. Davis was designated an Emeritus Professor of Agronomy after 40 years of service to Purdue, having taught plant genetics for 20 years in the Agronomy Department and then as the Associate Director of the Division of Sponsored Programs of the Purdue Research Foundation for 20 years. Retired U.S. Senator Birch Bayh and Ralph collaborated in drafting what became the Bayh-Dole Patent Act, increasing the commercialization of university innovation by industry.

He was a member of Federated Church and Past President of the Crop Sciences Society of America, the first President of the PTA at Cumberland Elementary, past President of Cove Cay Condominium Association in Florida, and past moderator of Faith Church in Clearwater.

Surviving are two sons: Mark Davis (wife: Mary Kathleen) and Craig Davis (wife: Nancy) both of West Lafayette; four siblings: Mary Alice Hamner (husband: Richard) of North Port, AL, Craig Johnson of Hueytown, AL, Jack Davis (wife: Kaye) of Hoover, AL, and William Davis of Vernon, AL; two sisters-in-law: Jimmie Sue Davis of Jasper, AL and Ruth Davis of Nashville, TN. Also surviving are nine grandchildren: Sean, Alicia, and Matthew Young, Kristen Edmundson, Nina Sonnenberg, Catherine, Anna, Katherine, and Eric Davis. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Rae Tomastik and two brothers, Richard & Max Davis.

*October 29, 2011
Federated Church
West Lafayette, Indiana*



Federated Church 1976



Federated Church 1985



Federated Church

Where individual belief and a vibrant faith community meet.

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