OBITUARIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE OHIO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
REPORT OF THE NECROLOGY COMMITTEE, 2009

The Necrology Committee of The Ohio Academy of Science consists of William R. Burk (chair), University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC; Christopher Cumo, Canton, OH; Relda E. Niederhofer, Firelands College of Bowling Green State University, Huron, OH; and Ronald L. Stuckey, Museum of Biological Diversity, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. The committee thanks Charles E. Herdendorf who was a guest contributor. The committee also expresses its gratitude to the following individuals and institutions: Janet Blair, Circleville, OH; Brent Bowditch, Michigan State University; Lys Burden; Andrea Cantrell, Librarian, University of Arkansas; Judy Cerrett-Mullett, Farmington Hills, MI; Christopher Coburn, Cleveland, OH; Kathleen Emery, Lambertville, MI; Martha N. Franz; Mary Franz, Los Angeles, CA; Crystal Garrett, The Ohio State University; Kevin C. Haire, Archives Assistant, The Ohio State University Archives; Richard Heimlich, Kent State University; Michelle Henderson, University of Michigan; Dave Horn, Professor Emeritus, OSU Entomology; Helga Jensen-Ruopp, Danbury (Connecticut) Public Schools; Bruce Leach, Head Librarian, Biological/Pharmacy Library, The Ohio State University, Columbus; Eleanor Maddy, Beaverton, OR; Beth Myerowitz, University of Michigan; David Nemeth, University of Toledo; Veronica Primrose, University of Notre Dame; Linda Austin Small, Christ Church, Greenwich, CT; Peggy Spaeth, Cleveland, OH; AnnaBelle Staiger, Columbus, OH; and Neil Wells, Kent State University.

The committee is seeking volunteers to provide information or to write obituaries on deceased members of the Academy whose obituaries have not yet been written for The Ohio Journal of Science. Please contact The Ohio Academy of Science if you can assist in this effort. A two-page outline of instructions for preparation on obituaries in The Ohio Journal of Science, written by Ronald L. Stuckey, is available from the author or the Academy office.

The following is a list of deceased members of the Academy with the year joined and date of death, if known, whose obituaries have not yet been published in the Journal.

William R. Burk, chair
Necrology Committee

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<td>J. Arthur Herrick</td>
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<td>Henry L. Hunker</td>
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The following obituaries appear in the 2009 Report:

- Billie Davis Blair (1927-2009)
- Russell Alan Brant (1919-2009)
- Miles Michael Coburn (1949-2008)
- Byron Elwyn Emery (1928-2006)
- John David Franz (1928-2009)
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Billie Davis Blair (1927–2009)

Billie Davis Blair, age 81, former extension entomologist at The Ohio State University, died 29 March 2009. He had a stroke in 2003 and another in 2004 from which he never fully recovered. A veteran of the United States Navy in World War II, Blair served in San Francisco, CA; Japan; Korea; Hawaii; and the Pacific arena. In recognition of his service in crop consulting, the Ohio Association of Independent Crop Consultants named an annual scholarship after him. Joining The Ohio Academy of Science in 1963, Blair affiliated with the Zoology Section, was elected a Fellow (1966), and was accorded emeritus status (1983).

Born 4 May 1927 in Melbourne, AK, Billie Davis Blair was the son of Raymond and Nina (Davis) Blair. Known as B.D. or Bill to friends and colleagues, young Blair attended the schools of his home town. He matriculated at the University of Arkansas, earning a B.S. in agriculture (1951) and an M.S. in entomology (1960). Under the supervision of entomologist Lawrence H. Rolston, Blair wrote his thesis on “The Use of Malathion and Pyrenone as Protectants for Stored Grain.” He furthered his college education at The Ohio State University, where he studied under the guidance of Ralph H. Davidson and earned a Ph.D. in entomology (1964). Blair’s dissertation concerned “Studies of Northern Corn Rootworm Adults Resistant to Aldrin.”

Following graduation from college in Fayetteville, AK, Blair was a field man for a family-owned feed and poultry business. His first professional position was as an instructor in agriculture, Ohio Cooperative Extension Service, serving as associate county extension agent, Tiffin, OH (1954-1957) and county agricultural extension agent, Napoleon, OH (1957-1960). He subsequently became a specialist in entomology, The Ohio State University (1960-1963) and entomologist, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center and Ohio Cooperative Extension Service, The Ohio State University (1963-1981). Although he had no formal teaching responsibilities, he gave countless extension presentations throughout his career. In his various positions in extension work, he advanced in the academic ranks: instructor (1954-1965), assistant professor (1965-1966), associate professor (1966-1971), and professor (1971-1981). In 1981 Blair resigned his position at OSU to become staff leader, Plant & Pest Management Sciences, United States Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, MD. There, he coordinated pest management programs. Two years later, he returned to Ohio and settled in Circleville, where he and his wife Janet began an agricultural consulting business, JBC Consulting, Inc. The business entailed publishing a newsletter called “The Blair Report,” conducting educational meetings on insect problems in field and forage crops throughout the Midwest and Canada, and performing contract research.

Blair’s entomological research focused on studies in economic entomology, particularly on soybeans, corn, and alfalfa. During the 1960s and 1970s, he provided leadership as Ohio farmers adopted integrated pest management. He served on agricultural task forces on boll weevils and the pink boll worm. Besides publishing nearly 24 papers in scientific journals, he wrote over 200 Extension publications and articles for farm magazines.

In professional organizations, Blair held memberships in the Entomological Society of America (past secretary, Section E; past chairman, Sub-Section Ea), the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants (president, 1992), and the Ohio Association of Independent Crop Consultants (charter member, past president). In honorary societies he was elected to Sigma Phi Epsilon and Sigma Xi. An active member of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Circleville, he served on its council as well as on the Southern Ohio Synod council. An avid fisherman, Blair liked to fish Ohio lakes, Canadian waters, and his favorite place, White River in Arkansas. After his retirement, he enjoyed growing giant pumpkins. One year, he won third-place pumpkin at 728 pounds in the Circleville (OH) Pumpkin Show.

Surviving Blair are his second wife, Janet (Bower) Blair, whom he married in 1983; his three children, Terre (Marvin Hamlish) Blair of New York City; Charlotte Jones of Columbus, OH; Ron Blair of Syracuse, NY; and his six grandchildren, Simon, Brendan, Noah, and Cassie Blair and Aubrey and Jordan Jones. Visiting hours were held 2 and 3 April 2009 at the Wellman Funeral Home, Circleville. Funeral services were held 3 April at the Trinity Lutheran Church with Pastor Don Bachman officiating. Interment was in Forest Cemetery, Circleville. Memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church, Good Samaritan Fund, 135 E. Mound Street, Circleville, OH 43113-1701.

--William R. Burk

Russell Alan Brant (1919–2009)

Russell Alan Brant, age 90, former Assistant Chief and Coal Geologist of the Ohio Geological Survey, Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Geologist Emeritus of the Kentucky Geological Survey, died at his home in High Springs, FL, 8 May 2009. Serving in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II in England, he was a tail gunner on a B-17 bomber and flew 35 missions over Europe (1943-1945). For exemplary service, he earned several honors: Air Medal (five oak leaf clusters), Good Conduct Medal, and European Theatre Medal. Brant was a respected authority on coal resource mapping, mine drainage, coal mine pollution abatement, and shoreline erosion. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to Ohio geology, he received the Mather Medal of the Ohio Geological Survey in 1996. Brant served as liaison between the Columbus Office and the Lake Erie Section Office of the Ohio Division of Geological Survey at Sandusky (1961-1969). In this capacity he and Charles E. Herdendorf established the first formal definition for freshwater estuaries (published by the International Association of Great Lakes Research, 1972). Joining The Ohio Academy of Science in 1952, Brant affiliated with the Geology Section, was elected a Fellow (1956), and was accorded emeritus status (1993).

Born 18 March 1919 in Brooklyn, NY, Russell Alan Brant (known as Russ to friends, family, and colleagues), was the son of Ray Basil and Mary Beulah Brant. The family moved to Mogadore, OH, when Brant was four years old. In his early years, he enjoyed walks in the glacial hills and swamps of the region and studied the flora and fauna. This pastime instilled in him an appreciation...
of nature and the physical environment. He attended the public schools in Mogadore and received his high school diploma in 1937. While working in a laboratory, he matriculated at The University of Akron Evening College (1939–1943). After serving in the military, he enrolled at the University of Michigan, where he received two degrees in geology: B.S. (1948) and M.S. (1949). Under the supervision of geologist Armand J. Eardley, he completed his thesis, co-authored with Nixon C. Elmer, William A. Gillespie, and John R. Peterson, on "Geology of the Armstead Area, Beaverhead County, Montana." During graduate school, he served as a teaching assistant in mineralogy. He later completed courses on botany at the University of North Dakota (1951–1952), coal geology and German at The Ohio State University (1954–1956) and at least one course on civil engineering at the University of Cincinnati (1972).


Brant's early research focused on coal resources of Ohio and later on coal geology and acid mine drainage. His resulting work on the latter topic was instrumental in efforts to alleviate the acid levels in the Ohio River drainage basin. In Kentucky, Brant applied his knowledge in geology in supervising the mapping of coal resources in the eastern part of that state and finishing similar work in the western region of the state. He published nearly 40 papers in scientific journals. Of particular note was "Coal Resources of Ohio," jointly authored with Richard M. DeLong (Ohio Geological Survey Bulletin 60, 1960). This landmark volume served as a standard reference work on coal in Ohio. In retirement, Brant pursued private research on beach erosion and conservation.

Brant held memberships in several professional organizations: the American Institute of Professional Geologists, the Geological Society of America (fellow), the Geological Society of Kentucky, the Geological Society of Washington, D.C., and the Northern Ohio Geological Society. His lifelong pastimes were gardening, studying ichthyology, and caring for nature. He attended the public schools in Mogadore and received his high school diploma in 1937.

Russell Alan Brant was predeceased by his wife Rae (Dewey) Brant, whom he married on 29 May 1945 in Akron, OH. Surviving him are children Wanda Phyllis (Lys) and husband Dan Burden of High Springs, Alan and wife Kay Brant of Spencer, WV, Duane James (Pip) Brant of Hollywood, FL, and Daniel Paul Brant of High Springs; grandchildren, Teri Brannon of Atlanta, Michael Brant of High Springs, Jodi Burden (Scott) Chase of Gainesville, FL, Julie Burden of Chatanooga, TN; great grandchild Jackson Chase of Gainesville; and sisters Glenda Brant (Ed) Wilson of Suffield, OH and Anita Brant Baker of Kent, OH. A memorial celebration of his life was held at his Florida home and in Ohio. According to his wishes, Brant's ashes will be (or were) scattered at different locations in northern Ohio, in Lake Erie, and at Chautauqua Lake, NY. Memorial contributions may be made to the Hospice of the Nature Coast, 201 NE 1st Avenue, High Springs, FL32643-9414.

-William R. Burk, Charles E. Herdendorf

**Miles Michael Coburn (1949 – 2008)**

Miles Michael Coburn, age 58, Professor of Biology at John Carroll University, died 16 August 2008 in Geauga County, OH. He was riding a bicycle when an SUV hit and killed him. His death brought a renewed call for increased safety for cyclists. An ichthyologist, Coburn studied the evolution of cyprinid fish and was a contributor on these fish to The Tree of Life Project. In 2003 Coburn received the Distinguished Faculty Award from John Carroll University. He joined The Ohio Academy of Science in 1983, affiliating with the Zoology Section.

Born 23 September 1949, Miles Michael Coburn was the son of Donald James Coburn and Elaine Mathilde (Kernaghan) Coburn. Miles Coburn grew up only a few hundred feet from John Carroll University. While on the family's annual vacation in Cape Cod, MA, young Miles displayed his athleticism in many ways. He was fast, strong and fearless, including running and leaping at the dunes of Cahoon Hollow Beach, Cape Cod. A graduate of Saint Ignatius High School (1967), Miles Coburn received a B.S. in pre-professional studies (1971) from the University of Notre Dame, an M.S. in biology (1975) from John Carroll University, and a Ph.D. in zoology (1982) from The Ohio State University. Able to master any branch of knowledge, Coburn was an excellent student. He joined the faculty in the Department of Biology at John Carroll University, advancing through the ranks to full professor and chairing the biology department while an associate professor. He taught undergraduate and graduate courses in biology and anatomy and physiology. Students praised him as a teacher, researcher, and human being. Former student Heather Timke declared him her favorite professor. Laura Fitzpatrick was impressed by Coburn's "love of science" and "extensive knowledge." Former secretary Valerie Rozie noted his qualities as "a good listener" and caring person.

As a field biologist, Coburn collected minnows from rivers, streams, and gullies and studied their bones and scales. An avid environmentalist, Coburn reintroduced indigenous species to the Doan Brook Watershed. This work was the basis of son Kevin's Eagle Scout project. Miles Coburn's knowledge of the Ohio biota was so broad that he could name almost every bird, plant and fish in an ecosystem. In 2006, in collaboration with other faculty and organizations, Professor Coburn instituted a symposium on climate change. He also developed a course on climate change, including it as a topic in freshman seminar. Coburn created Project Que?, a summer science and math program for Latinos in grades six through eight.

Coburn became an avid cyclist as an adult, typically riding 5,000 miles per year. During the week he rode alone, but on Sundays he joined a group of cyclists for a two- or three-hour ride. Choosing
rural roads in the belief that they were safer than main streets, Coburn was a cautious cyclist. A student of the biomechanics of a bicycle, he built several bicycles from scratch. Injecting humor into his cycling, Coburn and colleagues named certain hills after John Carroll University administrators. So great was his influence as a cyclist that upon his death 600 riders gathered to participate in a group ride, the first Ride for Miles. Family, friends and colleagues organized Ride for Miles, a nonprofit organization that aims to educate the public about the environment and bicycle safety. The second and most recent Ride for Miles was held on 12 September 2009, and future rides will be scheduled.

Coburn kept abreast of news about politics and world events. He read the New York Times every day as well as online sources of news. Alert to the dangers of climate change a decade before the public became broadly aware of global warming, Coburn led by example. He wore a sweater in winter rather than raising the thermostat, used fluorescent lights instead of incandescent bulbs, turned down the hot water tank, and walked and bicycled as much as possible to diminish his reliance on the automobile and the greenhouse gases it emitted.


Byron Elwyn Emery (1928-2006)

Byron Elwyn Emery, age 77, Professor Emeritus of Geography and Planning at The University of Toledo, died 15 October 2006 at Sunset Village in Sylvania, OH, of Parkinson’s disease. Teaching at the university for 23 years, he was an expert in political geography. He was also a consultant and a regional planner. His knowledge of the geography of the British Caribbean, offland use in Honolulu, and of demography and economic growth of Toledo was extensive. In 1986 the Ohio Planning Conference gave Emery an award for his work at the university. He joined The Ohio Academy of Science in 1970 and was elevated to Fellow that year.

The son of Earl Edward Emery and Doris Elizabeth (Phillips) Emery, Byron Elwyn Emery was born 31 December 1928 in Kittery Point, ME. Upon graduating from Robert W. Taft Academy (1946) in Kittery Point, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he held the rank of corporal. Stationed in Tokyo, Japan—in the Far East Command—Emery was assigned to the Truck Company of General Headquarters. Emery held a certificate of proficiency in the maintenance of small arms: rifles, carbines, machine guns, submachine guns, pistols, and rocket launchers. Honorably discharged in 1949, Emery enrolled in the University of Hawaii and earned a B.S. in geography (1954) and an M.S. in geography (1956). His thesis concerned the “Intensification of Settlement and Land Utilization Since 1930 in Manoa Valley, Honolulu.” At the University of Hawaii Emery held an assistantship in economic geography (1954-1955). The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor awarded Emery a Ph.D. in geography (1963). His dissertation was entitled “Regional Integration and Disintegration in the British Caribbean Area.” Since 1963 the British Caribbean has contracted with several islands gaining independence in the 1970s and 1980s.

While a doctoral student, he was an instructor (1956-1958), an assistant professor (1958-1961) and faculty sponsor and advisor of the Arab Students’ Club at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. At the University of Michigan Extension Center in Detroit, Emery was a lecturer in geography (1961-1962), teaching courses in world regional geography and economic geography. Upon completing his Ph.D., Emery settled at The University of Toledo, where he was the university’s first tenure track professor of geography. He was assistant professor (1963-1966), associate professor (1966-1969), professor (1969-1986) and professor emeritus (1986-2006). At Toledo, Emery broke new ground as an administrator. He served as founding chairman of the geography department (1963-1970); founding director of the new University College (1971-1974), which offered undergraduate individualized and experimental classes; and chairman of the geography and planning department (1978-1980). Kathleen Emery, Byron Emery’s wife of 21 years, recalls his love of teaching. His New England accent captivated students and colleagues, recalled Toledo geography professor David J. Nemeth.

Publishing papers in a variety of journals, Emery focused his research at various stages of his career on the geography of Hawaii, the British Caribbean, Toledo, and New York. During the Cold War he was interested in and knowledgeable about the political geography of the Soviet Union. His interests included demography and economics. In addition to his papers, Dr. Emery published book reviews in geography, sociological geography, geometric social sciences, and American decorative arts.

Byron Emery was a member of the Association of American Geographers (1953), the honor society of Phi Kappa Phi (1955-2006) of which he was a life member since 1986, the Explorers Club of New York City (1955) in which he was a Fellow, the American Society of Planning Officials (1965), the military affairs committee of the University of Toledo (1974-1984), the national social science honor society of Phi Gamma Mu (1975), the American Planning Association of which he was a charter member (1978), the American Land Resource Association (1984), and the Kittery Naval and Historical Society. Emery also led a faculty-student group aimed at stopping campus disturbances (1968) during the turbulent 1960s. He was United Nations Day chairman for the City of Toledo (1983). Emery was a friend of The University of Toledo Libraries.

Emery served the state of Ohio in a number of ways: consultant in cartography and urban geography with the Community Research Associates in Ypsilanti (1962-1963), principal planner of the Toledo-Lucas County Plan Commissions (1964-1965), director of research and planning studies and research associate for the College of Business Administration at The University of Toledo (1965-1966), member of the land use work group of the Great
Lakes Basin Framework Study (1969-1970), and consultant in Toledo’s Department of Planning and Urban Design (1970). He was also a university representative to the Worldwide Armed Forces Education Conference (1972), a consultant for the City of Toledo’s civil service commission (1974-1976), a consultant on demographic and economic projections for the Toledo Metropolitan Council of Governments (1975-1976), a member of the Census Statistical Committee of Toledo (1980), and an advisor of the Interfaith Justice and Peace Center at Lourdes College (1980) in Sylvania, OH. Aside from his tireless work at The University of Toledo, Emery’s most visible legacy is the giant Rand McNally globe, purchased during his tenure as chairman of the geography and planning department, which adorns the University of Toledo Carlson Library.

A voracious reader, Emery amassed a collection of thousands of books, which are now housed at the Rutherford B. Hayes Center in Fremont, OH; the Ward M. Cannady Center, The University of Toledo; the Toledo Museum of Art Reference Library; the Lourdes College Library; Berea College; the University of Hawaii Library; the University of Arkansas Library; the Law School Library, University of Maine; and the Portsmouth (NH) Athenaeum Library.

Predeceased by brother John Richard Emery, Byron Emery is survived by wife Kathleen Louise (Szynawski) Emery. The couple had wed 14 December 1974 in Toledo. Since Byron Emery’s death brother Robert Earl Emery has died. Surviving are sisters Mary Elizabeth (Emery) Seward and Alice Marie Emery, both of Kittery Point; children Earl Byron Emery and Norma Jane (Emery) Springer, both of Toledo; and grandchildren Jennifer Lynn Springer and Benjamin Lucas Springer, both of Toledo. The family held memorial services 20 October 2006 at the Thomas I. Wisniewski Funeral Home in Toledo, 21 October 2006 at Sunset Village and Memorial services 20 October 2006 at the Thomas I. Wisniewski Funeral Home in Toledo, 21 October 2006 at Sunset Village and Memorial services 20 October 2006 at Kittery Point. Byron Emery is buried in the Freewill Baptist Cemetery in Kittery Point. Interested parties may consult an obituary in the Toledo Blade, a biographical profile at the Bentley Historical Library of the University of Michigan, and a biographical profile in the possession of Kathleen Emery.

--Christopher Cumo

John David Franz (1928 – 2009)

John David Franz, M.D., age 80, an anesthesiologist with Anesthesia Associates in Dayton, OH, died 8 February 2009 at Life Care Hospital in Dayton from complications of diabetes. Dr. Franz had been hospitalized since mid-September 2008. He joined The Ohio Academy of Science in 1976, affiliating with the section on medical sciences.

Born 31 March 1928, John David Franz was the son of Franklin Edmund Franz and Bertha Sophia Louisa (Hockemeyer) Franz. A graduate of Greenfield (IN) High School (1946), Franz received an A.B. in anatomy and physiology (1950) from Indiana University. Using his last year as an undergraduate as his first year in medical school, a practice not unusual at the time, Franz pursued his studies at Indiana University School of Medicine, receiving an M.D. (1953). He began his residency that year in anesthesiology at Indiana University Medical Center, but suspended his residency to serve in the U.S. Army (1954-1956). Practicing general medicine at Camp Bussac near Bordeaux, France, he rose to the rank of captain. Upon his honorable discharge Dr. Franz completed his residency in 1958. He then practiced medicine at Good Samaritan and Miami Valley hospitals until his retirement in 1985, having served for 27 years.

Franz was a member of the American Society of Anesthesiologists and the Montgomery County Medical Society in Dayton. He was also a member of the Tippecanoe Environmental Lake and Watershed Foundation, an organization dedicated to preserving the pristine beauty of the region and to keeping the lake free from pollution. Franz was an avid reader with interests in the American Civil War, archaeology, and Egyptian tombs. He also enjoyed classical music, particularly the works of Wolfgang Mozart and Ludwig van Beethoven. A fan of opera, Franz held season tickets to the city of Dayton’s opera series.

Franz’s wife of 56 years, Martha (Neal) Franz, M.D. survives. The couple married 20 September 1952 at First Friends Church in Marion, IN. Also surviving are daughter Mary Elizabeth Franz of Los Angeles; sons David Neal Franz, M.D. of Springboro, OH; Thomas Allen Franz, M.D. of Export, PA; and Joseph Stephen Franz of Paoli, PA; grandchildren Christopher Becker Franz, Benjamin Thomas Franz, and John Stephen Franz; sister Judith Lea (Franz) McQuaid of Garden Grove, CA; and thirteen nieces and nephews.

--Christopher Cumo


Jerrold William “Bill” Maben, age 80, K-12 science coordinator for the Danbury Public Schools in Danbury, CT, for ten years, died 2 October 2009 at his home in Old Greenwich, CT, of complications from Parkinson’s disease. A lifelong educator, Maben advanced the study of science, culture, and spirituality. In 2006 the Science Education Council of Ohio honored him with its Friend of Science Award. The Connecticut Science Supervisors Association gave Maben its Lifetime Achievement Award, Joining The Ohio Academy of Science in 1964, Maben became an emeritus member in 1994.

Born 17 February 1929 in Detroit, MI, Jerrold William Maben was the only child of Gerald C. and Ina Daball Maben. Young Maben received a diploma from Grosse Point North High School in Grosse Point, MI, a B.A., a B.S. and an M.A. from Wayne State University and a Ph.D. in education (1971) with a concentration in science education from The Ohio State University. A teacher of fifth and sixth grade science in Grosse Point, he was an instructor...
in the department of teacher education, the College of Education, at Michigan State University in East Lansing (1956). From 1959 to 1961 Maben was coordinator of the science and math teaching center at Michigan State. He resigned from his duties at the university in 1963. He then became an instructor (1971-1972) in the College of Education, an assistant professor (1972-1975) and an associate professor (1975-1976) in the department of early childhood and elementary education at the City University of New York (CUNY)’s Herbert H. Lehman College in Bronx, NY. In addition he was science education chairperson and assistant dean of academic standards at CUNY-Lehman and program director with the National Science Foundation in Arlington, VA. Maben became K-12 science coordinator for the Danbury Public Schools (1988-1998). He taught at The University of Akron in Akron, OH; Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven; and the State University of New York (SUNY) at Purchase. He also worked with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the New York Academy of Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the National Science Teachers Association, and the U.S. Department of Education on science education and public policy.

Maben was the author, coauthor, consultant or editor of more than two hundred books, articles, reports, teaching guides and films. In 1967 and 1968 he was host and writer for the National Broadcasting System (NBC) Television Network’s educational exchange program. A frequent guest on radio and television, Maben addressed issues in science, technology, and education. Maben founded the Ohio Council for Elementary School Science. Maben was interested in the roles of the student and teacher in modern society. He appreciated that as society changed so too did education. Teachers must respond to societal influences on education. A proponent of science education, Maben believed that quality instruction in science kept the United States competitive with the rest of the world.

Maben was an officer in the Michigan National Guard. He also served on the vestry of Christ Church Greenwich in Greenwich, CT and was a lector and Eucharistic minister. He chaired the Greenwich Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA) Calf Island summer youth camp committee and was a community canvas member for United Way of Greenwich (CT). Active in local organizations, Maben encouraged women and minorities to pursue careers in science. In addition to membership in The Ohio Academy of Science, Maben was a member of the National Science Teachers Association, the New York Academy of Sciences, and the Connecticut Science Teachers Association.

Eager to serve others, Maben helped friends and neighbors replace a light switch in their homes, change a tire on their cars, or answer questions about the constellations. He enjoyed chocolate and classic cars, especially Packards. He was passionate about classical music and shared his passion and knowledge with friends. His favorite composers were Gustav Mahler, Ludwig van Beethoven, and Johann Sebastian Bach. He enjoyed sharing stories about his boyhood summers in Perry Sound, Ontario, and playing with his grandchildren.

Dorothy Maben, Jerrold Maben’s wife of 49 years, predeceased him. The two met at Christ Episcopal Church in Grosse Point and married 6 October 1956 in Grosse Point. Surviving are daughter Karen Elizabeth Maben, sons Jerrold Bryce Maben and Mark William Maben, and grandchildren Ezekiel Seth Maben and Micah Daniel Maben. The family held a memorial service 8 October 2009 at Christ Church, Greenwich. Maben was cremated and his ashes were deposited in Christ Church Greenwich’s Memorial Garden. Friends may make contributions to the National Science Teachers Association, 1840 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201. Interested parties may consult an obituary in the possession of The Ohio Academy of Science.

Malcolm Clark Maddy (1936 – 2006)

Malcolm Clark Maddy, age 70, retired process control engineer at Libbey-Owens-Ford Company (now Pilkington) in Toledo, OH, died 28 December 2006 from complications of Parkinson’s disease. In the United States Air Force, he worked on a radar base in Ajo, AZ, earning the rank of Captain. Maddy joined The Ohio Academy of Science in 1994 and held an interest in engineering. He served as a judge at two of the Academy’s Ohio State Science Fairs.

Born in Akron, OH, 23 March 1936, Malcolm Clark Maddy was the son of Deke and Ruth Maddy. When he was five years old, his family moved to the Los Angeles area. Following graduation from Westchester (CA) High School, he attended Stanford University, where he earned a B.S. in electrical engineering (1958). He also completed one semester of graduate work in electrical engineering at the University of California, Berkeley (1961-1962). In 1969 he earned an M.S. in engineering science from The University of Toledo (OH), where he studied under the direction of electrical engineer O. William Muckenhirn.

Following his military service, Maddy served as an engineer at Sandia Corporation, Livermore, CA, and Tonopah, NV (1962-1966). He spent three years as specifications engineer at Livermore Laboratory, writing specifications for special electrical and mechanical apparatus. He then spent one year at Tonopah Test Range, where he investigated telephone pair response, analogue parallax computers, and UHF telemetry. He subsequently worked as a senior engineer at EG & G, Inc., Las Vegas, NV, for the Nevada Test Site Engineering Section doing on-call analysis and maintenance assistance for the Operations Department as well as having other responsibilities. While a graduate student at Toledo, he concurrently taught courses in electrical engineering technology and technical mathematics at the Toledo Community Technical College. He was assistant professor of engineering technology (1967-1968). He next became a process control engineer in the research division of Libbey-Owens-Ford Company (1969-1987). He designed and prepared specifications and system drawings, created new software, and modified existing software as necessary for the application of DEC Microvax and PDP-11 computer-based systems for process control and monitoring. He also created and wrote programs simulating theoretical operation of processes using SLAM II, as well as other designing and programming for process control instrumentation. His special skills included operating systems (VMS, MS-DOS, and RSX-11M) and numerous programming languages (Basic, Fortran, 8086 Assembler, 8080 Assembler, 6800 Assembler, and MACRO-11). The application of his work was
Douglas James Mullett (1956 – 2009)

Douglas James Mullett, age 52, supervisor of the Energy Resources Group at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), died 5 January 2009 at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor of Mantle Cell Lymphoma. A geologist, with varied interests, Mullett was knowledgeable about sedimentology, stratigraphy, seismology, and hydrogeology. He joined The Ohio Academy of Science in 2007 with interests in geological sciences.

Born 19 June 1956 in Alliance, OH, Douglas James Mullett was the son of Myron Mullett and Phyllis (Rupp) Mullett. A graduate of Marlington High School (1974) in Alliance, Mullett received a B.S. in geology (1978) from Mount Union College. He then received an M.S. in geology (1981) from Wright State University. His M.S. thesis concerned “The Geology of the Albion Group of Tuscarawas County, OH.” During a lull in the oil industry Mullett enrolled in 1987 at Kent State University, where he pursued a Ph.D. in geology. Mullet held an assistantship at Kent and taught introductory geology laboratories, leaving the university ABD (all but doctorate).


In 1977 Douglas Mullett received an appointment to Mount Union College’s Campus Energy Committee. The next year he won the college’s geology award. In 1980 Mullett was co-founder and president of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists Student Chapter at Wright State University. He served on the Board of Counselors at the Wright State University Department of Geological Sciences (1985-1986) and on the Graduate Student Senate at Kent State University (1988). That year he held a research grant from Sigma Xi and in 1989 a research grant from the Geological Society of America. Mullett was president of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, a geology honors society (1988-1989). In 1990 he won a research award from the Kent State Association of Engineering Geologists.

Doug Mullett was interested in all facets of geology, particularly stratigraphy and sedimentology. His master’s degree research focused on the paleoenvironments of the Albion Group of eastern Ohio, knowledge that prepared him to work in oil and natural gas exploration. While pursuing a Ph.D., Mullett focused his research on the Eocene Claron rock formations of southern Utah, areas known as Bryce Canyon and Cedar Breaks. In addition to research on the early Tertiary Claron Formation, he helped define a new formation, the Grand Castle Formation. The Claron changed during the period of soil formation, yet Mullett looked beyond these alterations to define the sedimentology and stratigraphy of the region. More recently his research focused on the sequestration of carbon dioxide in rocks. The author of numerous papers, Mullett published in the U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin, the North Dakota Geological Survey Miscellaneous Series, and other periodicals. Mullett belonged to the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and the American Institute of Professional Geologists.

Mullett had a lifelong passion for the Boy Scouts of America program. As a child he had not been a scout because the town of Alliance then did not have a den. This shortcoming did not, however, diminish his enthusiasm for scouting. While an undergraduate at
Mount Union College, Mullett came home weekends to mentor the den in which his younger brother Greg was a scout. Doug Mullett had the honor of mentoring Greg from his inception as a scout to his becoming an Eagle Scout. For years Doug Mullett was den leader and cub master of Pack 45 at Longacre Elementary School in Farmington, MI. In connection with scouting Mullett received the Wood Badge Award. He also received the John Burroughs Nature Award. The Ohio Buckeye Council honored him with the Fifth Year Pipestone Award. He was a member of the Order of the Arrow, scouting’s national honor society.

Diagnosed with Lymphoma in April 2007, Douglas Mullett never complained of the painful and invasive treatment. He continued to work and to maintain a cheerful disposition. So beloved was he that the nurses maneuvered among themselves for the chance to care for him. They made a rotation so every nurse had an opportunity to provide care. At the approach of death the nurses lined the corridor to Mullett’s room to say goodbye to him. Wife Judy declared, “I feel blessed that he was my husband and such a wonderful role model for our children. We love and miss him very much and will always feel the void in our lives. Doug Mullett is and always will be my HERO.” His doctoral advisor remarked, “Doug was one of the nicest and most good-humored people that you could hope to meet, and he was always a pleasure to have in class.”

His wife of 16 years, Judy Cerett-Mullett survives. The couple married 6 June 1992 in Akron, OH. Also surviving are sons Trevor Charles Cerett, Brock Gregory Mullett, Chase Douglas Mullett, and Cole Ryan Mullett, all in Farmington Hills, MI; and his parents. Tragically killed in an automobile accident, brother Gregory Francis Mullett predeceased Douglas James Mullett. The family held visiting hours 7 January and 8 January 2009 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington, MI and a funeral service 9 January 2009 after which Mullett was cremated. Judy Cerett-Mullett has the ashes and intends to scatter them in Bryce Canyon. Friends may make contributions to the Mullett Boys Education Fund, c/o Citizens First Bank, 33205 Grand River Avenue, Farmington, MI 48336. Interested parties may consult obituaries in the possession of the ODNR and in the March 2009 Ohio Geological Society Newsletter. Judy Cerett-Mullett has a copy of her husband’s resume.

---Christopher Cumo

Joseph Frank Zelle (1912 – 2009)

Joseph Frank Zelle, age 97, radio engineer, died 11 July 2009 in Euclid Hospital in Cleveland, OH of sepsis. He used his talents and time for the betterment of radio and Saint Vitus Church in Cleveland. Joining The Ohio Academy of Science in 1974, Zelle became an emeritus member in 1991.

The son of Mihael Zele and Ivana (Tekavec) Zelle (the last name was elongated to Zelle), Joseph Frank Zelle was born 25 February 1912. A Catholic, Zelle was baptized at Saint Vitus Church 3 March 1912. His godparents were Frank and Franciska Hribar. Confirmed 25 February 1921 at Saint Vitus, Zelle received First Holy Communion 3 April 1921. His sponsor was Frank Primozic, Sr. Zelle’s early education was at Case Elementary School (1918-1920), Saint Vitus School (1920-1926), and Willson Junior High School (1926-1927), all in Cleveland. He graduated from Cathedral Latin School (1931). Receiving an A.B. from John Carroll University (1939), Zelle majored in English and minored in philosophy. He earned an M.A. from Western Reserve University (1942), where he had a major in English and a minor in German. Attending Capitol Radio Engineering Institute in Washington, D.C., Zelle studied radio broadcast engineering (1942-1947). He studied physics and mathematics at Western Reserve University (1950-1952) and at John Carroll University (1951-1966). Zelle held a first-class license in radiotelephony, a second-class license in radiotelegraphy, and an extra class license in amateur radio, all from the Federal Communications Commission. Zelle was also a professional engineer with a specialty in electrical engineering.

A studio engineer at radio station WGAR (summer 1941) in Cleveland, Zelle was a studio and transmitter engineer at the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) between September 1941 and September 1944 in New York City. Zelle also worked for the Office of War (OWI) now the Voice of America (September 1944-December 1945). He was a radio consultant engineer between January 1946 and his retirement. At radio stations WABQ and WXEN in Cleveland, Zelle was a standby engineer, at radio station WCLV in Cleveland a chief engineer and at radio station WCVJ in Jefferson, OH vice president and director of engineering. In Cleveland he taught electronics at Max Hayes’ Trace School, electronics and physics at the Cleveland Technicians School, Slovenian at Cleveland State University, and electronics and physics at Cuyahoga Community College. Zelle was a technical writer at the Cleveland Institute of Radio Electronics (1946-1947) and was a radio announcer at radio station WERE (1949-1951) in Cleveland, where he hosted a Slovenian nationality program. He was also an announcer at radio station WCLV and at radio station WCVJ in Jefferson, OH. As a consultant, he worked for Pierce, Hutton and Fox of Cleveland; Carl E. Smith Radio Consulting Engineers of Cleveland; McNary and Wrathall Radio Consultants of Washington, D.C.; Lynne C. Smeby Radio Consultant of Washington, D.C.; and Colonel E. Wilson of Washington, D.C. Among his assignments Zelle took field strength measurements on radio station WISR in Butler, PA; conducted a field strength survey for radio station WWJ in Detroit; took measurements of antenna impedance at radio station WCMW in Canton, OH; and calculated and plotted vertical field intensity for radio station WHKC in Columbus, OH.

Zelle was active in numerous organizations. He was a life member of the American Radio Relay League, the Quarter Century Wireless Association, and the Ohio Retired Teachers Association. He was a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and a member of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the Institute of Radio Engineers, the American Physical Society, the American Astronomical Society, the American Mathematics Society, the Mathematical Association of America, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the New York Academy of Sciences, the Northeast Ohio Commodore Users’ Group, the American Slovenian Catholic Union, the Saint Vitus Holy Name Society, the North Shore Animal League, the 700 Club, the Friends of the Slovenian National Home, and the Slovenian Research Center. A member of the executive committee for the Slovenian Chapel in the National Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., Zelle was vice president of the Catholic Mission Aid in Cleveland and was founding president of the Saint Vitus Alumni in Cleveland.

Active in the theater, Zelle served as stage manager for a number of productions, many of them at Saint Vitus School Auditorium. He also made documentary films of his church and the Slovenian Cultural Garden. Zelle was the author of numerous articles, poems and translations. By his own account Zelle was one of the first to detect the signals from the Soviet satellite Sputnik in 1957. He also had interests in computers and photography.
Predeceased by his parents, sisters Emily and Sophia, and brother Rudy, Joseph Frank Zelle is survived by several cousins. The family received mourners between 11:30 and noon 17 July 2009 at Saint Vitus Church. That day at noon the family held a funeral mass at the church. Zele Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Zelle is buried at Calvary Cemetery in Cleveland, OH. Friends may make contributions to Saint Vitus Church, 6019 Lausche Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44103. Interested parties may consult a death notice in the Cleveland Plain Dealer and a curriculum vitae of Zelle in the possession of The Ohio Academy of Science.

--Christopher Cumo

Acknowledgements: Blair photo courtesy of David Horn; Brant photo courtesy of Lys Burden; Coburn photo courtesy of Christopher Coburn; Emery photo courtesy of Kathleen Emery; Franz photo courtesy of Mary Franz; Maben photo courtesy of Helga Jensen-Ruopp, Danbury Public Schools; Maddy photo courtesy Eleanor Maddy; and Mullett photo courtesy of Judy Cerett-Mullett.