



Frank A. "Doc" Iddings

January 20, 1933 - March 17, 2019

Frank A. "Doc" Iddings, Ph.D., passed away on March 17, 2019 from congestive heart failure at his home at age 86. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Wanda, daughters Vickie Artibey (John) of Clinton, MS., Valerie Salisbury (Michael) of Richmond, VA., Venita Durrer (Russ) of Pagosa Springs, CO., and son Les of Waco, along with 12 grandchildren/step-grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents Frank E. and Clara Appalona Brumwell Iddings, only brother Leslie, 2 half-sisters, Frances Iddings Riley and Alice Tesora Iddings Coleman, and infant son Robert Frank.

Born in Abilene, KS., Jan 20, 1933, Doc's path to research and teaching began in 1951 at Midwestern University, Wichita Falls, TX, where he obtained a B.S degree in Chemistry and Math (Dean's Honor Roll all semesters, and Who's Who in both fields). At Midwestern Frank also played in the band, and it was during that time Wanda arranged to get them set up on double date with friends. After marrying on August 28, 1954, Frank then went on to obtain his M.S. (Chemistry) and Ph.D. (Analytical Chemical) at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. Postdoctoral studies included Industrial Applications of Radioisotopes (LSU), Modern Techniques in Activation Analysis (TX A&M) and Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies. Post college honors included Fellow of ASNT (American Society for Nondestructive Testing), ASNT Tutorial Award, ASNT Meritorious Service Award, and appointments (twice) as a Technical Expert by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Frank's career path began at Esso (Exxon) in Baton Rouge, LA., as a Chemist conducting research on radioisotopes. In 1964 he began teaching at LSU, becoming a retired Professor Emeritus (Nuclear Science, Nuclear Engineering, Chemistry), authoring over 60 publications, including articles, technical journals and chapters in books. During this time, Doc was also named as Technical Expert for the International Atomic Energy Agency ('71, '83), attached to the Singapore Institute of Standards and Industrial Research for two, 3 month assignments, and Special Lecturer/consultant across the US at numerous Nuclear power plants and Universities, as well as the University of Mexico in Mexico City, University of Singapore, and consultant in Saudi Arabia setting up a radiation detection lab with personalized training in radiation detection and measurement. His last 2 years on staff at LSU were spent serving as Asst. Director of the Nuclear Science Center. Doc will most be remembered by his LSU students for being the Faculty Advisor of Alpha Chi Sigma (Psi Chapter) for 18 years, with life-long friendships made, and his students' successes making him most proud.

Upon retiring from LSU in 1985, Frank spent the next ten years in various Asst. and Acting Director roles at Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, in the Department of Nondestructive Evaluation Science, Research and Technology Divisions. His last position with Southwest was as Administrative Director over a contract for the Dept. of Defense Nondestructive Testing Information Analysis Center. He finished his career teaching Freshman Chemistry at Palo Alto College as an Adjunct Professor in 2012. At the conclusion of about 25 years as Tutorial Projects Editor for ASNT's Material Evaluation monthly "Back to Basics" column, Frank wrote a tribute to his family, "Without the support, love and encouragement of my family, none of the above would have been possible. They have endured missed birthdays, anniversaries, concerts, games and their own special events while I was away".

The family wishes to thank the wonderful friends, neighbors and staff at Villa de San Antonio, Dr. Kimberly Heller, Vitas Healthcare, without whose staff,

comfort and attention, care at home would not have been possible, especially LaDonna, nurse Jeff and social worker Kelley, along with special care givers Angela Sachetta and her All Care staff.

On April 6, 2019, the family will hold a private service at Mission Park Funeral Chapel, online guest book available at www.missionparks.com, followed by a Celebration of Life at Villa de San Antonio from 3:00-5:00PM. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Frank's name to VitasCommunityConnection.org (San Antonio) or the Villa de San Antonio Holiday Fund (checks to VSA Residents Association, 8103 N Hollow, San Antonio, TX, 78240, with comment Holiday Fund).

Previous Events

Celebration of His Life

APR 6. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Villa de San Antonio
San Antonio, TX

Tribute Wall

DW

“ *Dr. Frank Iddings impact on my life was second only to Dr. James W. Robinson (who also recently passed). En route to my PhD in Analytical Chemistry at LSU with Dr. Robinson as my major advisor, I took a minor in Nuclear Science with Dr. Iddings as my minor advisor. I also had the opportunity to work directly for him as a tech in the LSU carbon dating lab for several semesters. Through many classes and personal interactions, and also as a member of Alpha Chi Sigma, Frank was a major inspiration for me. God rest this wonderful man and condolences to his family.*

Dr. Duane K. (Woody) Wolcott, BS Chem '70, PhD Chem '73 LSU

Duane K Wolcott - April 07, 2019 at 11:03 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Frank A. "Doc" Iddings.*



April 06, 2019 at 09:12 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Frank A. "Doc" Iddings.*



April 05, 2019 at 10:06 PM

BS

“ So sorry to hear of Doc's passing. I've known him since the 60's through my Dad, and I had the privilege of taking classes from him at LSU. I learned so much and his guidance helped me with my eventual career choice. My condolences to Mrs. Iddings and family.

Bill Spell - April 05, 2019 at 08:30 AM

BS

“ Doc, was an inspiration to me that words are hard to find. He saw things in me that I did not see, he knew things about me that I did not know. He encouraged me to do things that I would never have attempted to try, and he was right. His sense of humor and wit were amazing. He was the most influential person in my college career! I would not have made the choices in life that I did, without knowing he had given me the right direction to make the right choices. I will always remember one of the times I smarted off in his class and he reacted by throwing a piece of chalk at me, missed, and the classroom door caught it. I did take a picture of it and it always has been a small piece of one of the things that have stuck with me through life. I deserved it, he threw it and it made a lasting impression on me for life. He will be greatly missed, but he "left a lasting impression on me and the classroom door" or at least the chalk did. Ha RIP Doc!! Bill Stuart LSU Class of 1978.

Bill Stuart - March 31, 2019 at 11:14 AM

RS

“ Always greeted you with a smile, he was my boss, and friend. So sorry to see him go. I worked with Frank at SWRI in the research lab, for nondestructive testing. What a wonder full man.

Robert Spinks

Robert Spinks - March 24, 2019 at 11:55 PM

LB

“ As long as memory lives, those we love and remember, remain with us. And,
I will remember Frank...he always welcomed me with one of his great smiles,
and twinkling eyes. It was with sadness that Al and I read in the paper of his
passing. What a life well lived...and now may he rest well.

Linda and Alton Blevins

Linda Blevins - March 22, 2019 at 05:55 PM

RS

“ I had the great pleasure and honor of having Doc Iddings as a professor for several courses while I was an undergrad at LSU in the late 70's. In that time I had the privilege of working for him as a lab assistant as well, which was a true learning experience. He was always thoughtful and available for questions and consultations regarding coursework or life in general. So thanks Doc for all of those fond memories and opportunities. I hope you rest in peace. You will be missed by all, I know.

Robert Stakenborghs - March 22, 2019 at 02:20 PM

JS

“ Jack Little, Bill Stuart and Bob Stakenborghs purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Frank A. "Doc" Iddings.



Jack Little, Bill Stuart and Bob Stakenborghs - March 22, 2019 at 09:19 AM

JL

“ *Doc was a second father to me all through High School. His intellect and wisdom, which of course are completely different, were substantial and I, like everyone around him, benefited from them. A gentleman, great teacher and in his day, a pretty good pool player. He will be sorely missed.*

Jack R. Little

Jack Little - March 22, 2019 at 09:11 AM

CP

“ *As one of hundreds of Dr. Frank's students at LSU, I was inspired beyond measure by this wonderful human being. My wife, Wanita, and I still share stories of our time with Doc and Wanda - they truly were inspirational to us.*

Through my professional and teaching careers during the past 45 years, every step has been influenced by the love, commitment, generosity, mentoring, and education that flowed from Dr. Iddings to each and every one of us.

There will never be another, but I try each day to emulate him in the class room, and hope in some small way to be a credit to him.

Cal Pepper (LSU '69 - '74)

Cal Pepper - March 20, 2019 at 06:19 PM