



Joseph Patton Fulton

July 1, 1917 - November 26, 2019

Joseph Patton Fulton, age 102, passed away Tuesday, November 26, 2019 in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He was born July 1, 1917 in Princeton, Indiana to Lawrence and Laura (Watt) Fulton. He is preceded in death by his parents, his loving wives, Ferne, Lois and Mary, his son Dale Fulton, and brother Robert Fulton.

After graduating from high school in 1935 in Oconto, Wisconsin, Joe earned his Bachelor's degree at Wabash College, then his Master's degree at the University of Illinois. He continued at the University of Illinois as a teaching assistant while studying for his Ph.D.

He left the University of Illinois in 1942 to join the Army during World War II. In 1945, Joe married Ferne Wilson, who was the mother of his two children, Dale and JoAnn. After being discharged from the Army in 1946, Joe returned to the University of Illinois completing his Ph.D in plant pathology in 1947.

Joe moved to Fayetteville, Arkansas in 1947 when he joined the faculty at the University of Arkansas in the Department of Plant Pathology. He became a Professor, Department of Plant Pathology in 1954, serving as Department Head from 1959 to 1964. He taught courses in plant pathology, plant virology and fruit and vegetable pathology. His later research focused on plant virology, particularly on virus vectors, transmission and characterization of plant viruses, until his retirement in 1987.

Joe enjoyed outdoor activities such as fly-fishing, camping and hiking. He also enjoyed playing bridge and reading.

Joseph is survived by his daughter, JoAnn Peterson and husband Brian of Cedar Creek, Missouri; a sister, Isabel Ahlgren of Sun City, Arizona; one grandson; Christopher Kopek of Estes Park, Colorado; and daughter-in-law, Ronna Fulton of Cotter, Arkansas.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 2:00 PM at Butterfield Trail Village, 1923 East Joyce Blvd. Fayetteville, Arkansas under the direction of Nelson-

Berna Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to a scholarship fund in Plant Pathology at the University of Arkansas. Checks should be payable to the "University of Arkansas Foundation Inc." designating the gift to the "Bumpers College Scholarships in honor of Joe Fulton" in the memo, and mail it to: Gift Services, 300 University House, One University of Arkansas, Fayetteville AR 72701

Events

DEC **Memorial Service** 02:00PM - 03:00PM

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Butterfield Trail Village

1923 East Joyce Blvd., Fayetteville, AR, US

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Nelson Berna Funeral Home - December 02 at 04:01 PM



“ I met Joe shortly after he retired when he was volunteering to facilitate a faculty interview. He took me to breakfast and faculty visits on the first day. At some point the topic of fly fishing came up, and I quickly learned that he was quite knowledgeable on the subject. After I got situated in my new job, Joe explained the fishing on the White and Norfolk Rivers and introduced me to Dale and Ronna. Later, he guided me on Wildcat Shoal and reminisced how good the fishing used to be. I remember him telling stories about the month-long family vacations to the Pacific Northwest for salmon and steelhead fishing.

I last visited with Joe a few years ago at Butterfield Trail. After meeting him in the dining hall, he took me back to his room. I remember asking, "Where is all your stuff?". "This is it; everything else has been given away", he replied. This conversation still haunts me when I contemplate all of the stuff that I have accumulated and what might happen to it after I'm gone. I believe that Joe did the right thing by giving it away when he did.

Joe was the oldest person that I have ever known. He lived a long, fulfilling life. He was always a gentleman. The world was a better place because of him. Upon reading his obituary, I was most saddened to learn that Dale had died before him. I send my condolences to Ronna.

Best regards,
Gene Milus, retired Professor
Salida, Colorado

Gene Milus - December 02 at 07:51 PM