



In Memory of Our Friends and Colleagues



Dr. Grover Smart, Jr.

November 6, 1929 – January 2020

- Sergeant in the U.S. Army Security Agency
- Professor in the UF/IFAS Entomology and Nematology department from 1964-2003
- Received the Distinguished Service Unit Award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Elected a Fellow of the Society of Nematologists





Dr. Elver Hodges

August 2, 1912 – September 25, 2019

- Agronomy professor with UF/IFAS for 39 years
- First scientist hired at the UF/IFAS Range Cattle Research and Education Center
- Improved forages and management techniques for pastures
- Inducted into the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2015

Dr. Elmo “Ben” Whitty

March 6, 1937 – July 31, 2020

- Captain in the U.S. Army, serving in Vietnam
- Received the Vietnam Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal
- Agronomy professor with UF/IFAS for his entire professional career, retiring in 2005
- Worked on the production and management of numerous crops, primarily peanut and tobacco





Rebecca "Becky" Jordi

March 9, 1954 – July 31, 2020

- Began her UF/IFAS Extension career as a horticulture agent in 2001
- Became County Extension Director in Nassau County in 2010
- Published a children's book called *Zoe's Mission*

Dr. Freddie Johnson

August 5, 1938 – December 17, 2019

- Served as a tobacco specialist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture from 1957-1962
- Professor of Entomology with UF/IFAS, serving as Interim Department Chair in 1995
- Served as the Central District Extension Director from 1996-2007





Margaret “Peggy” Dessaint

March 20, 1946 – November 29, 2019

- Commercial Horticulture agent in Manatee County from 1991-2010

Ruth Milton

April 7, 1927 – January 16, 2020

- Taught high school home economics in Hillsborough, Gadsden, and Manatee counties
- Served as a Home Demonstration agent in Gulf, Taylor, and Manatee counties
- Founded the Florida 4-H Legislature program in 1973
- Inducted into the Florida 4-H Hall of Fame in 2002





Jack Tichenor

August 20, 1942 – May 9, 2020

- Water Conservation agent in Manatee County from 2001-2011
- Avidly collected, restored, and exhibited John Deere tractors

Dr. Rex L. Smith

June 7, 1929 – January 5, 2020

- Agronomy professor with UF/IFAS from 1968-2002
- His research focused on improving and increasing the food supply in underdeveloped countries





Dr. Charles Wilcox

March 28, 1930 – December 16, 2019

- Served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army from 1951-1953 in Korea, receiving a Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, and 3 Korean Campaign medals
- Dairy Science professor with UF/IFAS from 1959-1995
- World-renowned consultant in the areas of bovine genetics and international agriculture

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We cherish the memories of these, our friends, colleagues, and predecessors in Florida Extension. We extend our condolences to their families.

Memorial presentation created by Samantha Kennedy, ESP Chaplain