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
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