

ESP Memorial Necrology ● 2015-2016

Compiled by Henry Mayer, Chaplain ● September 2016

1. Sharon Angela Cecile Fitz-Coy

Passed away on Saturday February 27, 2016. Sharon was born in St. Ann, Jamaica to Florine and Eric Chambers, on the 8th of November 1956. Sharon was a Senior Biological Scientist at the University of Florida. She loved to expose young students to the world of aquatic insects. She maintained that it was imperative for the youth and the wider scientific community to understand the value of the fresh water environment and its importance to the eco-system. Her magnetic personality and infectious smile made it easy for her to interact with and meet new people. Her commitment to work was carefully balanced with devotion to her family. She is survived by her husband Norman Fitz-Coy, two sons Aric and Damek, a stepson Badyr, brother Donovan, and sisters Pamela, Christine, Carole and Maureen (Pat). Her aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, in-laws, and life-long friends will mourn her loss.

2. Isaac Chandler, Jr.

At the end of every day, as we rest from our labors, every retired agent should ask, "Have I made the best better?" Isaac Chandler, Jr. made a lasting impression on virtually everyone he came in contact. During his 35 years tenure, Mr. Chandler has made a tremendous impact on the citizens of Hamilton County, many of whom can attribute their success directly to being under his leadership.

It is with heartfelt sympathy Extension mourns the passing of another Florida 4-H Hall of Fame inductee. On February 23, 2016, we have lost a dear friend and valued colleague. Mr. Chandler died peacefully. Our hearts and prayers go out to the family

3. Geoff Wallat

As Taylor County's Sea Grant marine agent for the past three years, Geoff Wallat was on hand to help anytime someone had questions or problems concerning the county's coastline, whether it was fishermen, scallopers or school children.

During that time, he worked in the University of Florida IFAS Extension Office here, partnering with the local volunteer reef team, securing state grants to improve artificial reefs, leading 4-H day camps and creating educational programs for local schools. On Thursday, Nov. 19, Wallat died following a brief illness, leaving behind not only a family but a legacy of service to the people and environment of Taylor County coupled with a network of co-workers and friends.

4. DeArmand LeRoy "De" Hull [*ESP Life Member]

DeArmand LeRoy "De" Hull, 69, of Keaau, Hawaii, a retired professor of horticulture at the University of Florida and a county extension agent for horticulture in Palm Beach and Miami-Dade County, Fla., died in Life Care Center of Hilo. He was born in Lincoln, Ill. He is survived by spouse David Hertzberg, sisters Mary Ann Knoles and Cindy Hull, and brother Fred.

5. Dr. Charles Benton (C.B.) Browning

Charles Benton (C.B.) Browning, longtime Dean of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at Oklahoma State University, died at his home Tuesday in Gainesville, Florida. He was 84. Browning, who grew up in Burleson, Texas, attended college at Texas Tech before earning a master's degree in dairy science followed by a doctorate in animal nutrition from Kansas State. He began his career in education at Mississippi State, and later became chair of the Dairy Science Department at the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida and then the Dean for Resident Instruction in 1969. Browning began his career at Oklahoma State in 1979. His tenure at Oklahoma State saw a boom in funding and facilities, leading the campaign

for fundraising for the Noble Research Center for Agriculture and Renewable Natural Resources. It was also during his tenure that the Animal Science Arena was completed. After his retirement he was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame. In an article by OSU Ag Communications at his retirement, Browning had trouble deciding his most enjoyable moments at OSU.

"It's all been fun," he said. "Oh, sure, there have been several challenges, especially in terms of budgets, but overall, it has been an enjoyable period of my life. What has not been fun is having to leave some important things undone, and not having been able to do all that people would like."

At the time, former OSU president James Halligan said, "Dr. Browning has made a difference in Oklahoma agriculture. I have been impressed with his leadership and his commitment to teaching, research, and extension programs which have benefited our students and all Oklahomans. He has been tenacious in securing support for projects in his college. He enjoys a professional reputation and respect which extends to the national level."

He is survived by his wife, Magda, his children: Susan Kreps (Gary), Charles Browning Jr. (Liz), Steven Browning (Karen), Karen Bassetti (Kevin), Heidi Dahlander (Jon), and Gary Browning (Ellen), as well as 15 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

6. Dr. Bobby Leon Damron

Dr. Bobby Leon Damron of Gainesville passed away Tuesday, March 1, 2016 of Multiple Systems Atrophy. He was born November 6, 1941 in Ocala, FL to William Henry and Effie Eugenia Brown Damron, but was raised in Gainesville from birth.

Dr. Damron graduated from Gainesville High School class of 1959. He entered the [University of Florida](#) in September of 1959, received his bachelor's degree in

Vocational Agriculture in 1963, his Masters in December of 1964, and his Doctorate March of 1968. He joined the University of Florida faculty in Poultry Science in the spring of 1968. His appointment in IFAS was primarily for research, teaching and extension. His research was well published in scientific journals.

In 2003 he retired as full Professor Emeritus in Animal Science. He was most proud of his service as a reserve deputy sheriff in Alachua County from January 1, 1963 to September 12, 2002. He was on the Alachua County Youth Fair and Livestock board and judged poultry. His most recent honor was being inducted into the Florida 4-H Club Hall of Fame in April of 2015. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Vera Toole Damron, whom he met in the Florida 4-H camping program, and daughter, LenaSusanne Damron of Gainesville.

7. Travis Seawright

Travis Seawright of Parrish inspired generations of Manatee County youth to pursue careers in agriculture and assisted countless farmers and ranchers during a 30-year career as Manatee County livestock agent.

Mr. Seawright passed away Sunday at age 76, and is being remembered this week for the full life he lived, and for all those he helped.

"It's a huge loss for the agriculture community," said Dan West, one of Mr. Seawright's former students and manager of the Manatee County Fair. "During his tenure as agriculture teacher at Southeast High School and later as county livestock agent, he inspired so many people to go into the agriculture field, including myself."

When directors of the Manatee County decided they wanted to turn the livestock show into a showcase for youth to showcase their animals, they turned to Mr. Seawright. Now, the youth livestock fair that Mr. Seawright founded is one of the largest in Florida,

West said. Betty Glassburn of Duette knew Mr. Seawright for many years through her work with the fair, the 4-H Club and the extension office, and remembers his dedication to youth. "He would haul them all over the county and the state in that county van," Glassburn said.

His service won him several honors, including Distinguished Service Award for Excellence in Extension Education Programs by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents; the Manatee County Employee of the Year in 1985; and Agriculturalist of the Year in 2002 for Manatee Farm-City Week. "He used to say there wasn't an inch of Manatee County he hadn't walked on, especially in the east where he worked with all the farmers and ranchers," his wife Dottie Seawright said this week. Mr. Seawright was happiest when he was in a tractor seat, and looked forward to tending his citrus groves when he retired. Unfortunately, the greening epidemic killed the trees in his grove, sharing a pain felt by citrus growers all over Florida. He was also a licensed glider pilot.

"He always said when he was flying in a glider with only the sound of the wind over the wings, he felt closest to God," family members said.

Born in McAdams, Miss., Nov. 23, 1939, Mr. Seawright grew up in rural Mississippi on the family cotton farm. He earned a B.S. degree from Mississippi State University, in physical education and agriculture. He received his master's in agriculture extension education from the University of Florida. In 1975, he became county livestock agent with University of Florida Extension Service in Manatee County and retired in 2005. Survivors include his wife Dorothy, son Gene Seawright of Myakka City, daughters Doreen Lowe of Parrish, and Michelle Higdon of Clemson, S.C., seven grandchildren; two uncles, Harry Black and Wayne Black, and an aunt, Helen Smith.

8. Susan Christian Camp [*ESP Life Member]

Mrs. Susan Christian Camp, age 104, widow of Lemuel Dale Camp, died Friday, January 22, 2016 at Extendicare Health Care Center. Born Susan Robinson Christian on September 11, 1911, in the Fairview Community, Cullman County, AL, to William John Christian and Lucy Brindley Christian. Susan was one of twin girls, the other being Dixie Ryan Christian. Instilled from birth in Susan and her siblings were Christian living, the dignity of labor, honestly and conscientiously performed, and the necessity for college or university degrees.

Mrs. Camp attended Berea College, Berea, Kentucky where she graduated in 1933 with a degree in Home Economics. Mrs. Camp enjoyed many years of work as an educator. Early in her career, she taught in the rural schools of Cullman County, AL and at Young Junior High School in Dothan, AL. Following this, Mrs. Camp worked as Home Economist with the Farm Security Administration, Coffee County, AL, teaching tenant farmer homemakers to produce, preserve, and store a year-round food supply as well as other skills to upgrade their standard of living. Interrupting her career in education, World War II led Mrs. Camp into foreign assignments in Palestine (now Israel), Egypt, Germany, and Italy where she was responsible for food and other welfare needs of refugees and displaced persons of many nationalities.

Returning to the field of education, Mrs. Camp worked as Nutritionist with the Cooperative Extension Service, the College of Agriculture the Ohio State University, and likewise in the Institute of the Food and Agricultural Science of The University of Florida. She retired the latter in 1971 and moved to Dothan, AL, in 1976. Mrs. Camp was a member of the Westgate Church of Christ, the Society for Nutrition Education, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, and professional honor societies Pi Lambda Theta and Epsilon Sigma Phi. She spent the past 15 years at The Terrace at Grove Park.

Predeceasing Mrs. Camp in recent years were a brother, Dr. Kenneth G. Christian, M.D. of Guntersville, AL, and sisters, Colfax Christian McDaniel of Arab, AL and Dixie Christian Martin of Dothan, AL. Survivors include a sister-in-law, Marilyn Christian of Guntersville, AL, nieces and nephews, Dr. Kenneth Christian of Holden, ME, Karen Christian of New York, NY and Cheryl Kugler of Claremont, CA; a devoted friend, Sarah Collier of Montgomery, AL and devoted friend and caregiver, Martha Nell Pybus of Dothan, AL.

9. Bessie J. Canty [*ESP Life Member]

Mrs. Canty passed away peacefully on December 17, 2015 at St. Catherine Laboure Manor. She was a native of Madison County, FL, where she received her early education. Furthering her education, she earned her B.S. and Master's degrees from Florida A&M University where she met the love of her life, Major Bennie L. Canty. Mrs. Canty was a military wife, pioneer, prominent community leader and advocate. For a time she led a segregated office on Broad Street, but eventually, in 1965, the height of the Civil Rights Movement, through tenacity and sheer will, she integrated the Jacksonville-Duval County Extension Office and moved into the main Courthouse offices. Throughout her Extension career Mrs. Canty earned numerous accolades, including the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Extension Home Economics. Ultimately, in July 1970 Mrs. Canty became the first black person ever promoted to head an Extension Home Economics Office in the U.S., a role that would open doors and provide opportunities for future generations. She was a charter member of The Jacksonville Chapter of Links Inc. and served as chapter president for many years. She was also a dedicated member of the Beta Alpha Zeta Chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., where she served many years as Regional Director. Mrs. Canty is predeceased by her husband; her indomitable spirit will live on in her five children, Lt. Commander Benjamin Keith Canty (Judy), Ms. Angela Gail Black, Mrs. Susan Canty Jones (Dr Kenneth W.), Howard Wayne Canty (Susan), Sumner Anthony Canty (Sheila); eleven beloved grandchildren, six treasured great-grandchildren and many loving friends.

10. Harvey T. Paulk [*ESP Life Member]

Mr. Paulk, 94, of Tallahassee died October 10, 2015 at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. A native of Campbellton, Florida, Mr. Paulk graduated with Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Florida. He taught school in Jackson County and then served as an Extension Agent in Madison and Calhoun counties. In 1972 he moved to Leon County where he served as County Extension Director until his retirement in 1981. He was a veteran of WWII, serving with the Army Air Corps in the Pacific Theater. He was an active member of the First Baptist Church where he served as a deacon. He was a faithful member of the Lions Club for over 50 years. He enjoyed Gator sports and fishing with his dear friend Roy Daniels. He was devoted to his wife of 66 years, his children, granddaughters, and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife Miriam, son Tim (Cynthia) of Tallahassee, daughter Barbara (Hentz) McClellan of Blountstown, brother Curtis of Campbellton, five granddaughters and four great-grandchildren.