



Dr. John Beebe

February 4, 1942 - October 22, 2018

Dr. John Beebe, age 76, son of the Rev. John & Minnie Beebe, passed away on Monday, October 22, 2018. John's family feels so blessed to have been able to celebrate John's life together in the past couple of weeks. John had a unique sense of humor. If you didn't laugh at his joke at first, you would get it later. He had a strong sense of character, believed in and did what was right and was a member of Pillar Church of Holland. John was strong on the outside yet gentle on the inside. He taught at Calvin College for 37 years, was well read and enjoyed engaging in a deep scientific conversation. He deeply love his wife and family and will be dearly missed by them. John is survived by his wife of 55 years, Thea; son, Peter & Katie Beebe and their children, Michael, Persephone, Stellan, Anastasiya,; daughter, Janna & Joseph Ortiz, and their children, Madison, Mason, Olivia, Eva, Caleb, Arabella; sister, Edna Greenway; brother-in-law, William & Willa Beckman; and many nieces and nephews. The family will conduct a private service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given in John's honor to the John & Thea Beebe Scholarship Fund at Calvin College, 3201 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. John Beebe*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - October 22, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dr. John Beebe*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"Peter, and Janna; long before I was your teacher, your dad was my teacher. I was blessed because of his influence on my life as a student at Calvin. Thea, may the God of grace and comfort surround you in ways unimaginable."*

Ken Bergwerff - October 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Our thoughts and prayers are with you Thea and family. John was a blessing to all he met. May you feel God's love and support today and always. Blessings, Glenn and Trinie Vander Ploeg - Pillar Church"*

Trinie and Glenn Vander ploeg - October 25, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CH

“My sincere condolences to Thea and the family. I first met John when I was a student at Calvin working on a Biology major that later shifted to Education with a science group major. I will always remember his smile and humorous remarks. He sparked a love of botany in me, especially when he commented that plants are easy to remember because they stay put and don't flit around like birds. I also remember the lab where we dissected pine nuts. We could learn about them and then eat them.”

Cheryl Hoogewind - October 25, 2018 at 12:00 AM

RS

“Dr. John Beebe was a valued colleague at Calvin College. His sense of humor was indeed wonderful. He was a terrific friend and an inspiration, both to me and to numerous students.”

Ralph Stearley - October 25, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SR

“I still remember Latin names of many plants I learned during the summer I volunteered with Dr. Beebe in the Calvin greenhouse. He was kind enough to humor having a biology-crazy eighth grade kid hanging around, who probably missed most of his jokes. My career in science basically started with Dr. Beebe.”

Steve Roels - October 25, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SR

“John influenced our son Steve to become a scientist. When he was in middle school, Steve interviewed John on the topic of carnivorous plants. Two years later he help John in the Calvin greenhouse for a summer. This spurred interest in plants and the natural world that led to a doctorate in ecology and related fields. May John's family find comfort in knowing that as a Christian scientist, John helped someone much younger to follow in the path that he had forged.”

Shirley Roels - October 25, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JD

“My husband loved being John's colleague at Calvin and we both enjoyed his friendship and great sense of humor. John not only inspired his students, but he also inspired the other professors. His legacy of grace will continue to live on in his family and in the lives of all of the students he touched.”

Jolene DeHeer - October 25, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BS

“I had the pleasure of knowing John as a student and colleague. Upon his retirement he offered me some books from his office, which was thoughtful and encouraging. My sincere sympathy for your loss.”

Bob Speelman - October 25, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JD

“Dr. Beebe was the most impactful professor at Calvin that I had during my time there. He remained a friend long after I was a student. He is missed.”

Jack Dekkinga - October 24, 2018 at 12:00 AM

WH

“My condolences to Thea and their children. John and I were classmates at HCHS and Calvin. I like John was also a biology major.”

Walter Hoeksema - October 23, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DK

“John was my mentor. To say that he had a powerful influence on my career is almost an understatement. Until I took his Plant Physiology course (only because the Animal Physiology course was full), I would never have entertained the notion of going into that field myself. John then mentored me in an undergraduate research project in his lab that launched me into graduate school at Purdue. Keeping in touch at annual meetings of the American Society of Plant Biologists and later via email, he followed my professional development at each step. At a critical juncture when I had hit a low point, I was surprised by an out-of-the-blue phone call from John: "What would it take to get you interested in a biology faculty position at Calvin?" A few months later he was mentoring me through the tenure process at Calvin, a role that he never really relinquished until the day of his retirement. John's friendship, humor, and wisdom has indeed enriched my life. I am so grateful for the opportunity to share these thoughts with him a couple weeks ago - our last gift to each other.”

David Koetje - October 23, 2018 at 12:00 AM