

Death of Dr. Robert J. Ryan

Email Announcement

Dear SSR Friends and Colleagues:

We reported in the February 2009 Newsletter that Dr. Robert J. Ryan died on October 31, 2008.

Dr. Ryan was a long-time member of SSR, a current emeritus member, and President of SSR, 1987-1988. He was a member of the Program Committee, 1980; served on the Fiscal Committee, 1989 and 1993; the Awards Committee, 1983 and 1994 as Chair; and the Nominating Committee in 1988 and 1992-1993.

Dr. Ryan was awarded the 1991 Carl G. Hartman Award, SSR's highest award for lifetime achievement in reproductive biology.

Obituary

Dr. Robert J. Ryan, 81, of Rochester, Minnesota, died Friday (Oct. 31, 2008) at his home.

Robert John Ryan was born July 18, 1927, in Cincinnati. He attended Xavier University and the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, receiving his medical degree in 1952. He served in the Army from 1945 to 1946. Following his postdoctoral training in Detroit, Chicago and Boston, he joined the faculty of the University of Illinois College of Medicine (Chicago). He remained there until joining Mayo Clinic in 1967.

At Mayo he was successively an Associate Professor of Medicine, a Professor of Medicine, the Bartels Professor of Cell Biology, and a Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He was chairman of two departments and served on a number of committees. He trained more than 45 postdoctoral fellows, and received the Mayo Distinguished Investigator Award in 1986 and the Mayo Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1994.

Dr. Ryan's work on pituitary gland hormones earned both national and international recognition. He served on three editorial boards and was an officer of the Endocrine Society and the Society for the Study of Reproduction. He received awards from both societies, as well as the Drake Medal from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. He also served on many committees, such as the National Institutes of Health, the Ford Foundation, and the World Health Organization.

In 1954, he married Elizabeth Kennedy of Cincinnati; they were divorced in 1980. In 1986, he married Diane Casper. They retired from Mayo in 1990, and enjoyed many activities, including golf, bowling, bridge and gardening.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by four sons, Michael of Mankato, Minn., R. Terry of Minneapolis, Tom (Karen) of Mankato and Jim of Rochester; two daughters, Kathleen (Michael) Hawkins of Rochester and Barbara (Michael) Shinder of Charlotte, N.C.; a stepson, Chris (Gerry) Casper of Webster, Minn.; and a brother, James S. (Mary) of Cincinnati. Other survivors include five grandchildren, Jeremy Strelow, Ryan Gaebel, Alissa Ryan, Megan Ryan and Evan Ryan; a stepgrandson, Adam Casper; and a great-granddaughter.

Public visitation will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7, at Ranfranz & Vine Funeral Homes in Rochester. A private memorial service will be at a later date.

Memorials are requested to the Mayo Foundation for research; the Rochester Orchestra and Chorale; Channel One Foodshelf; or the Lourdes Foundation.

(Obituary by permission of the family.)