



Jacob L. Rhodes

January 13, 1922 - July 27, 2010

Jacob was the husband of Ruth E. Basehore Rhodes for more than 50 years until her death on July 27, 2010. He was born January 13, 1922 in Linville, VA, son of the late Jacob L. Rhodes and Agnes Hosaflook Rhodes. His family moved to Lebanon in 1926, and he lived most of his life in Lebanon County. As a member of St. Mark Lutheran Church in Annville, Jacob served at various times as teacher, member and president of the Congregation Council, and on many committees, most recently on the Extended Ministry Committee.

Jacob graduated from Lebanon High School in 1939 and received a baccalaureate degree from Lebanon Valley College in 1943 with majors in mathematics and physics. From 1943 through 1946 he was a research physicist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, working on World War II projects sponsored by the US Office of Scientific Research and Development. In 1946 Jacob began graduate study in the physics department of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He served as chairman of the physics department of Roanoke College in Salem, VA from 1952 – 1956. He then returned to the University of Pennsylvania as Research Fellow in 1956, and received his Ph.D. in nuclear physics the following year. Jacob was appointed chairman of the physics department at Lebanon Valley College in 1957, a position he held until retirement in 1985 when he was given the title of Professor Emeritus. He continued teaching physics at LVC as Senior Professor of Physics until 1992. He served three terms as faculty representative on the LVC Board of Trustees. In April 2014 Jacob participated

in the Physics Department's 100th anniversary celebration. For ten years he taught graduate courses in Temple University's General Education Program for Teachers at its branch campuses in Allentown, Reading, Lancaster, and Harrisburg as well as on the main campus in Philadelphia. During various summers Jacob did graduate study at Yale, University of Rochester, and Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies. In his retirement years Jacob served as a volunteer for Annville Free Library, Meals on Wheels, Lancaster-Lebanon Literacy Council, and Spang Crest Manor. He was a member of the American Physical Society, as well as the American Association of Physics Teachers, for which he served terms as Secretary-Treasurer, Vice-President, and President of the Central Pennsylvania Section. Surviving are three daughters and one son: Andrea and her husband Timothy Salem of Wernersville, PA; Marcia and her husband Steven Garcia of Camarillo, CA; Carol and her husband Dax Norman of Lewes, DE; William Rhodes and his wife Stephanie of Newark, DE; a granddaughter Victoria Ruth Norman and a grandson Jacob Thomas Rhodes; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by three brothers, R. Earl, Russell A., and William L. Rhodes, and by four sisters, Nina Rhodes, Velva Steffy, Fleta Basehore, and Catherine Reich. A memorial service will be held at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 200 E. Main St., Annville, 17003 at 11:00 am on Saturday May 20, with visitation preceding the service from 9-11am. Inurnment will follow at Covenant Greenwood Ebenezer Cemetery. Kreamer Funeral Home and Crematory, Annville has been entrusted with arrangements. In lieu of flowers, Jake requested that memorial contributions be made to the Extended Ministry Fund, St. Mark Lutheran Church, or to the Rhodes & O'Donnell Physics Research Fund, Lebanon Valley College, 101 N. College Ave., Annville, PA 17003.

Tribute Wall

SR

“ I just want to let you know your family is in my thoughts. I'm one of Pete and Betty Dissinger's daughters. I had Uncle Junior for a math class at LVC and I found him to be a gracious and patient instructor. Math is certainly not my strong point and he was always patient with me when I need further clarification.

Sulynn Richard - May 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Rhodes family. Dr. Rhodes was a respected, admired, and beloved teacher, both to physics majors and to other students in his physics courses.

Susan Snyder - May 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ Deepest condolences to the family on the loss of this wonderful father, teacher, mentor, you name it. We grew up on the same street--our father taught math at LVC-- and I'll never forget Jake's many kindnesses. Rest in peace Dr. Rhodes. Karen Bissinger Steinrock

Karen Steinrock - May 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ LVC was kind enough to mention part of a statement I wrote about Dr Rhodes. I thought you might be interested in the whole statement. As a youngster I found myself with a degree in physics. Dr. Rhodes was my physics teacher at LVC and showed interest in helping me learn. Many of my students are enjoying physics more because of the Dr. Rhodes influence upon me. In November 1983, I received a letter from a past student. John was then teaching physics and had read the article, "Kinematics of a Student" I had written for THE PHYSICS TEACHER. John wrote me a wonderful letter. Among other things, John wrote, "Many of my students are enjoying physics more because of the Jim Nelson influence upon me." John never knew it was really Dr. Rhodes Influence!

Jim Nelson - May 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Jacob L. Rhodes

John Green - May 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ Our sympathy to Andi, Marcia, Carole, Bill and families. May your memories be a comfort. Blessed to have your parents as neighbors and spend time with your dad the past few years. Mary and Roger

Mary Leibig - May 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ Andy and Marcia--Please accept my condolences. I think of you and your parents every time I pass Jake's pristine lawn. Find solace in knowing he is now with Ruth for eternity.

Barbara Hynum Parks - May 17, 2017 at 12:00 AM

PT

“ I worked with Dr. Rhodes for seven years, right after I received my Ph. D. from the University of Delaware. He and Ruth treated Eileen and me like family. We were often at his house. He was a master gardener and I still think of him every time I enter my garden. My son was born while I was teaching at LVC and Jake was tickled that he and Patrick shared the same birthday. He was a great chairman and a great mentor. Our sympathies are with his family

Phillip Thompson - May 16, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Rhodes' family at this difficult time. May God bless you all.Regards,John and Tracie Fisher

May 16, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ I am indebted to Dr. Rhodes for my career. He encouraged me and arranged for financial support so that I could attend graduate school. He was an excellent teacher and very concerned with helping his students.. I still remember Jake and his wife inviting the physics students into their home .Ed Nickoloff, D.Sc.Professor Emeritus Columbia UniversityLVC 1965

Dr - May 16, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DZ

“ Dr. Rhodes was such an excellent teacher and person. He will be missed tremendously by us all. Although I was not able to see him as much as I would have liked after I graduated, I will always cherish the conversations that I had with him and the things that he taught me.

Douglas Zook - May 16, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ Offering our deepest condolences during this difficult time.

The Staff of Kreamer Funeral Home - May 16, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ What a kind and smart man. At LVC I had Dr. Rhodes for a physics class back in 1985. Sincere condolences to the family.

Janet Kelsall - May 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Jake graciously welcomed me and my family as I began teaching at LVC. His Christmas receptions for faculty and staff were legendary, including his Christmas recipes, if I remember correctly.

Donald Byrne - May 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ We had the pleasure of visiting with our first cousin Jake and Ruth on a few occasions. They both were wonderful people and wish we had lived closer so we could have visited more often.
Sincerely Robert and Lois Emswiler Bridgewater, Virginia

Robert Emswiler - May 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ So sorry, Andy. Never knew your dad but he must have been pretty amazing. Please accept my sincere condolences

Sondi Weaver - May 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM