



Wilmot W. Irish

July 15, 1928 – November 20, 2022

Wilmot W. Irish, age 94, an emeritus professor of agricultural engineering at Cornell University, passed away peacefully November 20, 2022, at his residence in Shelburne, Vermont. He was known for his kindness, positive spirit, and helpfulness to all who met him.

Born July 15, 1928 in Burlington, Vermont, he was the son of the late Leo Pearl Irish and Cornelia Wheeler Irish of Shelburne. He graduated from Shelburne High School in 1945, and then the University of Vermont in 1950 where he was elected to membership in the Alpha Zeta Honor Society, the first and oldest collegiate society for agriculture. After graduation he met and married the love of his life, Barbara Moffett, while working in Canandaigua, New York. He served in the U.S. Army as a First Lieutenant in Korea and was awarded the Bronze Star for actions on Sand Bag Castle.

After returning from Korea, he completed his M.S. degree at the University of Illinois in 1955, then worked in Storrs, Connecticut as an assistant professor at the University of Connecticut before joining the Department of Agricultural Engineering at Cornell where he specialized in farm structures, with responsibilities for the Extension Plan Service and directing the formation of the Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service. During his time at Cornell, he worked in the Agricultural Engineering Department Extension Service improving dairy structures throughout New York State, and designed facilities for loose cow housing at The William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute in Chazy, New York. He was a registered Professional Engineer in the State of New York.

He was an active member in Rotary International and the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (now the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers) and served as Secretary-Treasurer of the North Atlantic Region. In 1981, he was awarded a Fulbright Grant to develop an agricultural engineering program at the University of Gezira in Sudan. Following his

return, he and Barbara became very active with the New York and National Federation of Music Clubs. After Barbara's death, he continued this work with his friend and companion, Sophie Albrecht, in Ohio. In 2016 he returned to Shelburne to live his final days in the town where he grew up. He had interests in sports and photography.

A video about the legacy of Wilmot Irish, conducted by Ronald Bay Furry.
(<https://ecommons.cornell.edu/handle/1813/37247>)

Wilmot was predeceased by his son Wendell, his wife Barbara, and his grandson Zeke Kassel. He is survived by his son, Paul, daughter, Carol, their spouses, several grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and one great grandson.

Written by L. Paul Irish and Ronald Bay Furry