Memorial Resolution on Behalf of Samuel Noel Postlethwait, Emeritus Professor, Department of Biological Sciences

It is with tremendous sadness that the Department of Biological Sciences announces the passing of Samuel Noel Postlethwait, on January 15, 2019.

Sam was born April 16, 1918 in Willeyville, WV and grew up on a 180 acre farm near New Martinsville, WV. He met Sara Madeline Cover at Fairmont State Teachers College in 1937 and they married 4 years later. Their interdependence and love for each other was indeed special for all of the 69 years of marriage.

He joined the Navy in 1942 and served for over 3 years during WWII. After his service in the military, Sam used the GI bill to earn a masters degree at West Virginia University and later a PhD at the University of Iowa. In 1949 he earned a PhD in botany from the University of Iowa and shortly after came to Purdue as a botany professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. His immense contributions to teaching were recognized with many awards, including the Helping Students Learn Award from the Purdue Alumni Association in 1983 and the first Charles Edwin Bessey Teaching Award from the Botanical Society of America in 1989. One of his proudest professional achievements while at Purdue was the development of a teaching system focused on the learner. He called this model the Audio-tutorial system. He attributes much of the design of this system to his excellent students who "owned" its development. Sam retired from Purdue in 1984. It should be noted that Sam continued to teach informally for many years following.

Sam and Sara moved to University Place in West Lafayette in 2004. Together they enjoyed, and fully valued, their neighbors at UP and the wonderful loving culture of this remarkable living facility. During this time at University Place, Sam was often at the nearby Celery Bog. He has over 30,000 pictures of the park taken over the years while walking with his Tuesday morning "walkers" and close friends. This was a very important aspect of the last several years.

Sam valued his affiliation with the Kiwanis of Lafayette and West Lafayette and its members. The mission, "We build: Changing the World, One Child and One Community at a Time" was near to Sam's heart. Time, at the Kiwanis lunches was time well spent in his view; special occasions to be with good people doing good things.

Sam was 100 years old at the time of his passing and is survived by his two children, four granddaughters and eleven great grandchildren.