

Dressman, John Bernard 1933 - 1999

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John 'Jack' Dressman, U of L professor

John B. "Jack" Dressman had a dedication to education that even serious physical problems couldn't deter. A heart problem left Mr. Dressman relying on a wheelchair to get around, but he continued as a professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Louisville. "He continued with his teaching duties, and in three years didn't have a sick day. To me this was amazing. He didn't let down," said his wife, Marilyn.

Mr. Dressman, 66, of Erlanger, died Saturday in St. Elizabeth Medical Center South, Edgewood.

He taught in the university's Speed Scientific School for 28 years and also was a chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Mr. Dressman taught for five years after suffering a heart problem, and retired in 1995. He was named a professor emeritus.

"After his retirement we could have located anywhere, but chose to return home," said Mrs. Dressman, the former Marilyn Hammer and also a Northern Kentucky native.

Mr. Dressman grew up in the Latonia and Taylor Mill area and was a 1951 graduate of Holy Cross High School. He attended the Ohio Mechanics' Institute, but it was after a two-year hitch in the Army as a draftsman that he really developed a thirst for education, his wife said.

Mr. Dressman earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Kentucky, and after an assistant professorship at St. Leo College in Florida, received his doctorate in mechanical engineering at the University of Arkansas in 1967. In the 1960s, Mr. Dressman was a fellow of the National Aeronautical and Space Administration, and worked on the space shuttle program, Mrs. Dressman said.

Her husband published numerous papers and received many awards, Mrs. Dressman said. Among them were a distinguished service award from the American Society of Engineers, and an outstanding teacher award from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Mr. Dressman served on the Catholic Board of Education in Louisville, his wife said, and in earlier years had been an avid golfer.

He was a member of St. Barbara Church in Erlanger and a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Survivors also include a daughter, Ellen Dressman of Mauckport, Ind.; a son, Lawrence Dressman of Bloomington, Ind.; a stepdaughter, Judy Lubbers of Fort Wright; stepsons, Pete Henke of Fort Wright and Ken Henke of Crestview Hills; his mother, Irma Dressman of Bloomington; and six step-grandchildren.

Mass of Christian burial will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at St. Barbara Church. Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m.

Tuesday at Stith Funeral Home, Florence, and from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday at the church. Burial will be in Mother of God Cemetery, Fort Wright. Memorials are suggested to St. Barbara Church Educational Fund, 4042 Turkeyfoot Road, Erlanger, Ky. 41018.

