



Dr. Robert H. Mohlenbrock

September 26, 1931 - November 5, 2024

IN MEMORY OF:

Robert H. Mohlenbrock

Serving Location:

CRAIN PLEASANT GROVE-MURDALE FUNERAL HOME

31 Memorial Drive, Murphysboro, Illinois

Dr. Mohlenbrock was born on September 26, 1931, in Murphysboro to Robert Herman and Elsie Treece Mohlenbrock. They and his wife Beverly Ann Mohlenbrock preceded him in death. He is survived by children Mark William Mohlenbrock of Arizona and Carbondale and his fiancée Tiffany Loosvelt of Springfield, Missouri, Wendy Mohlenbrock Preece and her husband David of Murphysboro, and Trent Alan Mohlenbrock and his wife Beth of Carbondale, grandchildren Jason Mohlenbrock and his wife Shawna, Korinna Finrock and her husband Herbert, and Marian Holliday and her husband Nathan all of Arizona, Heather Cain and her husband Blake of Springfield, Illinois, Andrew Mohlenbrock of Nashville, Tennessee, Dylan Preece and his fiancée Emily of Denver, Colorado, Madison Olsen and her husband Nick of Murphysboro, and five great grandchildren, Liam and Henry Cain of Springfield, Ellie Auwen and Wyatt Holliday of Arizona, and Adalyn Grace Olsen, of Murphysboro. Robert served in the Illinois National Guard. He was an internationally known

botanist. After receiving his doctorate from Washington University (St. Louis) in 1957, he was employed in the Department of Botany at Southern Illinois University where he taught and did research for 34 years. He was chairman of the department for 16 years. He was recipient of the Outstanding Teacher Award and the Outstanding Researcher Award at Southern Illinois University and the Meritorious Teacher Award from the Association of Southeastern Biologists. He was named Distinguished Professor and Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Southern Illinois University. He was commencement speaker at the SIU College of Science commencement in 1992. He was major professor of 25 doctoral students and 68 masters students. He was author of 81 books and nearly 700 other publications including his "This Land" monthly column in Natural History magazine from 1984 until 2024. He was chairman of the North American Plant Specialists Group of the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature for 12 years. After retiring from SIU in 1990, he and his wife formed Biotic Consultants where he taught 328 week-long wetland plant identification courses in 32 states. His wife accompanied him on all of these trips and typed all of his manuscripts. In September of 2022, the city of Murphysboro honored him by placing a mural of him, along with 19 celebrities of the city, on the outside of the town clerk's building on 11th street.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donating in his name to the Jackson County Historical Society, 1616 Edith St, Murphysboro, IL 62966.

There will be a private service for the family and later, a public celebration of Robert's wonderful life in the spring of 2025 when the wildflowers are blooming.

The cremation of Robert H. Mohlenbrock has been personally handled by the staff of Crain Funeral Home.

Crain Pleasant Grove – Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant Grove Memorial Park

31 Memorial Dr.
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 687-1145
crain@crainsonline.com

Tribute Wall

LW

“ I remember him personally from my early years in the Southern Illinois Audubon Society and from my work in publications at SIU. He truly was one of the most active, curious, intelligent, famous, and enthusiastic scientists of my generation in Illinois. His detailed books of the state’s flora and his travels to hundreds of natural areas (some precious, tiny, overlooked) in the country helped me find beautiful spots in my own travels. I extend my thanks to him to his family, now, and I wish you peace and good memories such as I have of him.

Laraine Wright - November 09, 2024 at 09:28 AM

DC

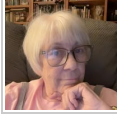
“ Dr. Bob was the best! He was truly special in so many people's lives, and I cherish the many memories I've shared with him. We will miss him dearly. God rest his soul.

Dr. Tom Cervone - November 08, 2024 at 09:08 PM

DO

Dr. Mohlenbrock was a great teacher, botanist and friend. He was one of my botany instructors during the 1960s. His presence inspired me to continue my studies in biology and eventually become a teacher. I kept in touch with him over the years and last saw him during the summer of 2024. He was special and will always be remembered. We’ve lost a great one. Dale O’Dell

Dale O’Dell - December 15, 2024 at 03:56 PM



Dr. Mohlenbrock was by far the best instructor I ever had during my time at SIU in the late 60'-70's. I took every class he offered. He personally approved my acceptance into the master's degree program in botany after I was turned down by the committee due to my being a zoology undergrad major. I remember a young Mark Mohlenbrock accompanying the class on many of the field classes. The many, many books he authored have been on my shelves throughout our years of moving around the country. The community of dedicated botanist and protectors of the environment have lost a great mentor. My sincere condolences to his family. Shannon Stordock Hecht, SIU

Shannon Hecht - January 31, 2025 at 05:30 PM