



Francis Burke Leftwich

Dr. Francis Burke Leftwich, Fellow and former president of the Academy, passed away at the age of 76, on Wednesday, February 10, 2010, with complications of lymphoma. He was born October 4, 1933 in Glen Allen, Virginia. He was the youngest of five brothers, one sister, and the son of late Charles Beverly Leftwich and Lucille Gallion Leftwich. Dr. Leftwich graduated with a B.A. from the University of Richmond in 1956, and received a Masters of Science from U of R in 1958. He received a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 1963. Following a postdoctoral fellowship at Rutgers University, he returned to the University of Richmond where he taught Biology and Endocrinology from 1964 to his retirement in 1996. From 1985 to 1996, Dr. Leftwich served as the Chair of the Biology Department at the University of Richmond during which time he oversaw the design and construction of the original Gottwald Science Center in 1978. At the re-dedication of the Science Center in 2006, a pre-med counseling center was named in his honor. In 1976, Dr. Leftwich received the University of Richmond's distinguished educator award. He counseled pre-med students and worked with graduate students on research projects ranging from how frogs change color to the function of the pineal gland in rats. He was an avid fisherman and loved gardening, especially roses and camellias. As long and faithful supporter of the Academy, he encouraged his students to present at our meetings and become members. He was elected president and Fellow of the Virginia Academy of Science in 1984.

Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Frances Stallard Leftwich; daughters, Dr. Julie Beales of Henrico County, Amy Moore and Sarah Branch, both of Henrico, and Kathryn Muir of Charlotte, N.C.; a sister, Caroline Hodgskin of Orlando, Fla.; and 12 grandchildren.