

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF
RALPH E. CLELAND

Ralph E. Cleland, Distinguished Professor-Emeritus of Botany, died at his desk on June 11th. He was born on October 20, 1892 in Le Claire, Iowa; he was educated at the University of Pennsylvania. As an undergraduate he majored in both Classics and Botany. He remained at Pennsylvania for graduate work in Botany and received the Ph.D. degree in 1919. Following service in the Army, he taught at Goucher College in Baltimore from 1919 to 1938. He came to Indiana University as head of the Department of Botany in 1938 and became Dean of the Graduate School in 1950.

Dr. Cleland once remarked that he owed a great deal to Indiana University, but Indiana owes a great deal more to him. As a teacher, administrator and research worker, he brought rare distinction and prestige to the University. A man of unimpeachable integrity, a true scholar, a Christian gentleman in every way, a man of great intelligence, it was a privilege for us to have been associated with him.

Dr. Cleland was a dedicated teacher and considered it a privilege to instruct at all educational levels. While serving both as a chairman and a dean, he continued to find time to offer his course in Cytology every year. After his mandatory retirement at the age of 70, he still continued to give his course by popular demand for several years. His students remember his course as one of the most demanding as well as one of the most intellectually satisfying in their university experience.

His position in the history of science is secure, and today he stands as the foremost student of Oenothera (the evening primrose). As a young scientist, he made the critical observations on the behavior and structure of chromosomes that led to an understanding of the unorthodox genetic mechanism in Oenothera. This was followed over the years by a series of beautifully executed investigations on the evolutionary history of the genus. He remained active in research to the last, and his book, Oenothera, Cytogenetics and Evolution, summarizing his lifetime work and that of others, was sent to press the day before his death.

Recognition of the high quality of his scholarship came early to Cleland. He was relatively young when elected to the National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Among his honors were the first John F. Lewis Award of the American Philosophical Society, a certificate of merit from the Botanical Society of America, and a Guggenheim Fellowship which he spent in study abroad.

He was elected a corresponding member of the German Botanical Society, the Korean Botanical Society, and the Japanese Genetics Society. Honorary degrees were awarded him by Hanover College, the University of Pennsylvania, and Indiana University. He held a number of offices in various societies and served them faithfully in many ways over the years. In the course of a long career he served as President of the Botanical Society of America, the Genetics Society of America, the American Society of Naturalists, the Indiana Academy of Sciences and was the first head of the American Institute of Biological Sciences. He was vice-president of the International Union of Biological Sciences, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. As Dean of our graduate school he was an officer in the Association of Graduate Schools and was chairman of the Division of Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council for a number of years. Despite his varied and manifold duties he found time to serve in the demanding post as Editor of the American Journal of Botany and for years edited a section of Biological Abstracts. At Indiana University he served as the director of the Aerospace Research Application Center after retiring from his other administrative posts.

Be it resolved that the faculty of the University pay its deepest respects to the memory of Ralph E. Cleland; that this resolution be entered into the minutes of the Faculty Council; and that copies thereof be sent to Mrs. Ralph E. Cleland and to the sons, William Wallace, Robert Erskine, and Charles Frederick.

Charles W. Hagen, Jr.
Charles B. Heiser, Jr., Chairman
Marcus M. Rhoades
Richard C. Starr