Lawrence Morehouse, 1925-2011

Dr. Lawrence G. Morehouse, 85, of Columbia, professor emeritus of veterinary pathology and retired director of the veterinary diagnostic laboratory at the University of Missouri, died of congestive heart failure on Wednesday, March 2, 2011, at Boone Hospital Center.

The funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Friday, March 11, in the sanctuary of Trinity Presbyterian Church.

A reception and visitation will be from noon until 2 p.m. Friday in the church's Fellowship Hall.

Dr. Morehouse was born July 21, 1925, on a farm near Manchester, Kan., to Edwy and Ethel Glenn Morehouse.

He graduated from a one-room schoolhouse and Abilene High School.

He served in the Pacific as a pharmacist's mate during World War II, before returning to Kansas State University where he earned his Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1952.

After a year of practice in the St. Louis area, he went to Purdue University. While working on his M.S. and Ph.D., he served as director of the USDA's brucellosis laboratory. He married Georgia Lewis on Oct. 6, 1956, in Lafayette, Ind.

From 1960 until 1963, he worked for the USDA in Washington, D.C., and later at the newly established National Animal Disease Laboratory in Ames, Iowa. In 1964, he accepted a position as professor and chairman of the Department of Veterinary Pathology at the University of Missouri. In 1968, he became the organizing director of the Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory and served in that capacity until he was named professor emeritus in 1987. During his career, Dr. Morehouse authored or co-authored more than 100 scientific publications dealing with diseases of livestock, laboratory and companion animals. He was co-editor of a three-volume encyclopedic work on fungal toxins. He was a member of a large number of professional organizations including the American and Missouri Veterinary Medical Associations; The American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians — where he served as president and was a recipient of its prestigious E.P. Pope award; the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (secretary-treasurer); the U.S. Animal Health Association; Sigma Xi; The Royal Society of Health; and many more.

In his retirement, his interest in genealogy led him to publish a Morehouse Family genealogy. At the urging of his wife and children, he wrote an autobiography entitled "The Nine Lives of L.G. Morehouse."

He was a member of the M. Graham Clark Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Mayflower Society. He also served as president of the MU Retirees' Association.

Dr. Morehouse was a longtime member of Trinity Presbyterian Church, where he served several terms as elder and also as clerk of session.

He was passionate about his love of music, especially opera, and served on the board of the Missouri Symphony Society.

He is survived by his wife, Georgia; a son, Timothy Morehouse, his wife Kara, and their sons Gabriel and Elijah of New Jersey.; and a daughter, Glenn Morehouse Olson, her husband Joel, and their daughters Zoey, Abilene and Jolie.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, E. Wayne Morehouse; and sisters, Inez Lathrop and Dona Davidson.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Missouri Symphony Society, 203 S. Ninth Street, Columbia, Mo. 65201.

Tributes can be left online at www.memorialfuneralhomeandcemetery.com.