



Richard L. Latterell

March 14, 1928 - October 16, 2024

Our Dear brother, Richard “Dick” Latterell 96, passed away in Fort Collins, Colorado, on Wednesday, October 16, 2024. He was born in Paynesville, Minnesota to Clifford and Hazel Latterell, on March 14, 1928.

After high school graduation Richard followed the path of education to the University of Minnesota, to Penn State for a master’s degree, receiving his doctorate in Plant Genetics from Cornell University.

He taught in the biology department at Shepherd University for over 20 years before retiring to his Cave Hill Farm near Shepherdstown, WV, and lived there until moving to Colorado in 2019 to be near family.

Richard was an avid lifelong naturalist and environmentalist, supporting many environmental, conservation and wildlife projects and causes. He was founder of the Jefferson County WV, Watershed Coalition in response to poor water quality in the Potomac River.

His wife, Frances Meehan Latterell preceded him in passing away in 2008. He is survived by sister Janet Morger, nephews Mark, Erik and Alan Peterson and niece Kristin Irwin and their families.

A Celebration of Life will be held in his beloved, very often hiked, Colorado

mountains at a later date.

Tribute Wall

EV

“ Dick and Frances Latterell were my favorite people . While being a colleague of Dick at Shepherd College, I took his Genetics course in the early 1970's to be able to keep up with the exciting developments in science at that time. It was a very valuable experience.

Dick was generous. He lent me his truck for a week, invited me to spend time on his farm; with Frances they helped me locate lost pets.

He was among the few people in science at Shepherd who spent his summers doing research and publishing his results in refereed journals.

His work for environmental causes is legendary.

My last experiences with Dick were lunches at Betty's restaurant in Shepherdstown and phone calls to him while he was living with his sister in Colorado. Old friend, I miss you!

Eugene Volker

Eugene Volker - November 03, 2024 at 10:09 PM

JH

“ I had Dr.Latterell for Biology 101 at Shepherd College in 1984 - I consider him to have been not only one of the finest educators that I have ever encountered, but one of the best persons I have even known.

James Hayden - October 30, 2024 at 04:44 PM

CR

I think his health got bad by early 1986. He asked me "Cindy , did you know school started today? " It was end of January 1986. The day of the Challenger explosion. Maybe he was in shock. He had a lab that was full of fruit flies. They were multiplying like crazy. My favorite memory is of him telling me in lab that semester that my work was so perfect it was hard for him to believe I did it on my own. Only two or three of us students, all of us women, got the work right. First, he thought most of the students were right but then he realized most of the students did the work wrong. CSR BS biology/chemistry

Cynthia Reeser - August 16, 2025 at 02:39 AM