



Royal Oyster
1929 – 2006

A TRIBUTE TO ONE OF THE GIANTS OF ATSP

Royal Jacob Oyster, age 76, of Grand Rapids, died at his home on Saturday June 3, 2006. Royal was born Nov. 13, 1929 in Stowe Prairie Township, Todd County to Sherman and Iva (Moodie) Oyster. He was educated in a one-room schoolhouse, graduated from Wadena High School, and from North Central School of Agriculture in Grand Rapids. Royal was united in marriage to Barbara Ann Voigt on Feb. 3, 1950.

Royal was an exceptional man who thoroughly enjoyed life's adventures along with his wife, Barbara. His gentle spirit and optimistic attitude were contagious and anyone who met him walked away a better human being. Truly, he was an inspiration to all. Royal was a long time employee of FSIS and one of the founders and charter members of ATSP. Royal was the first National Secretary of ATSP, and served the Association diligently in that capacity for 22 years, from 1973 through his retirement in 1994. He was a hard worker for, and was dedicated to, ATSP. Through Royal's efforts, along with other ATSP officers, many people in the inspection program benefited by promotions and upgrades. Royal always had concerns for the inspectors in the plants.

Royal started out in poultry inspection in the Midwest, became a GS-9 processing inspector in Marshal, MO, then was promoted to a GS-11 Moisture Controller position in the Poultry Division, in the Kansas City Region. He came to headquarters to work in the Equipment and Facilities

Branch, where he eventually became the Branch Chief. He held that position until he retired. A Minnesota native, he lived in Woodbridge, VA, during his long tenure in headquarters. Barbara and Royal moved to Grand Rapids, MN in 2002 to be close to his cabin on Amen Lake where he loved to spend time both alone and with his family enjoying the woods and nature and driving his tractor.

Royal was a Master Mason and member of Trilumina Lodge 205 in Marshall, Mo. Prior to moving to Grand Rapids in 2002, Royal had served as deacon, elder, and trustee in the Presbyterian Church, and was a member of Community Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids.

If you ever met Royal, you liked him. He just had a friendly way with people, and it seemed like he knew everyone, everywhere. He will be missed by all who knew him, and by many who didn't know him, but who continue to benefit from the fruits of his heartfelt labors. Royal is one of the Giants upon whose shoulders we stand today.

Royal is survived by his wife, Barbara, 3 sons, 4 grandsons, and a great granddaughter.