

Dr. Ben E. Sheffy

[The following obituary was provided to ACVN by Dr. Fran Kallfelz.]

After a long illness, Dr. Ben E. Sheffy, passed away into peace and comfort on November 14, 2011, at the Carol Woods Retirement Community, Chapel Hill, NC. He was 91.

Dr. Sheffy was born in Luxemburg, WI on a dairy farm to the late Anton and Mary Shefchik. After entering Pre Med at the University of Wisconsin, he enlisted in the Navy in 1941 and trained as a bomber pilot in Pensacola. He was commissioned and sent to the Pacific where he served on the USS Bunker Hill, USS Intrepid and the USS Enterprise. During the war, he was honored with many awards including 2 Adm. Mitscher Air Citations, the Distinguished Flying Cross, American Theatre Ribbon Asiatic-Pacific as well as the Philippine Liberation and American Defense medals.

In 1945, Lt. Cmdr. Sheffy tested developments in naval aircraft at the Philadelphia Naval Air Station. There he met his wife of 63 years, Constance Flynn. They returned to U of Wisconsin where he received his PHD in Biochemistry and Nutrition. In 1951 he accepted an appointment with Cornell University in Animal Science. In 1957 he was asked to join the School of Veterinary Medicine and became the Asst. Director of the Baker Institute and Caspary Professor of Nutrition. During his 34 years at Cornell, he spent sabbaticals at the University of Cambridge, England, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich Germany, Melbourne, Australia and Taipei, Taiwan. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship and special NIH grants. Dr. Sheffy was granted honorary diplomate status in the American College of Veterinary Nutrition in 1997.

Developing Virology programs, he was advisor to the governments of Mali, Spain and Mexico. Among his many distinguished accomplishments was the development of the vaccine used to prevent the spread of swine cholera. He was also a member of the team developing the vaccine for Parvo.

After his retirement in 1985 as an Emeritus Professor, the Dr. and Mrs. Sheffy retired to their 60-acre farm in Henderson, NC where they raised Angus cattle and created a bird sanctuary. He was involved in developing a soup kitchen, acted as an *ad litem* volunteer, Sunday school teacher and volunteer fireman. Dr Sheffy continued his volunteer work at the Senior Center Hospice, Community Relations and Companion Corp when he and Constance moved to Carol Woods in 1997. He was a member of the Bird Club, loved to weave on his antique loom and learned to ski at 45, although he loved the land and gardening most.

He is predeceased by his parents, brothers Edward, Jacob, Joseph and sisters Mary and Viola. He is survived by his wife, Constance; daughters, Alese (Gordon) Ruggaber, Nina Sheffy and grandchildren, Chelsea and Ben and a brother Ivan. Dr. Sheffy was a parishioner of Newman Catholic Center. A Memorial Mass will be announced. The family kindly suggests any remembrance be a donation to the Disabled American Veterans. www.dav.org.

Dr. Sheffy was a devoted family man, loyal to his Country, gentle, unpretentious, humble, optimistic, courteous, caring and a friend to all.