



Dr. Richard L. Hall

June 14, 1923 - August 15, 2019

Richard Leland Hall Ph.D. beloved husband of the late Barbara Abbott Hall; dear father of Ann Hall Dorr, Nancy Abbott Cooper (the late Alan) and Elizabeth (Libet) Hall Ottinger (Marc); dear grandfather of Jeffrey, Andrew, Justin, Laura and Abbott.

Please omit flowers.

Donations may be made in Dr. Hall's name to:

Dr. and Mrs. Richard L. Hall Dean's Fund
President and Fellows of Harvard College
Alumni and Development Services
Harvard University
124 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Previous Events

Funeral Service

SEP **14.** 1:00 PM (ET)

Grace United Methodist Church
5407 N. Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21210

Tribute Wall

“ I had the honor and privilege to work with Dick in both the FEMA and IOFI organizations for over 30 years. When I first met Dick, he took me under his wing and with great patience, taught me much of what I know about the flavor industry. I know I am not alone as he served that role for so many of those of us who followed him. One of Dick’s finest qualities was the way he made everyone feel that they were his best friend. What a wonderful and special gift to give.

I was always amazed at Dick’s ability to bring consensus to a contentious meeting (and we had a few). He would lead the discussion and once everyone had had a chance to express their point of view, Dick’s head would bow and he would use his wide lead Cross pencil to start writing. He continued to listen and make comments where necessary, but would wait for a pause in the conversation and then say ... “so what we really are concluding is”. At which point we would all sit in amazement that he had captured the optimal compromise solution. I have spent my professional career trying to emulate those skills, even if I could never capture the voice!

On a personal level, he and Barbara got to know Candice and our children during our visits to Aspen every summer. From their perspective, Dick and Barbara were always another set of grandparents. Once when my oldest son was looking at colleges, Dick offered to take him to Johns Hopkins and had us stay at their home. Kevin and Dick were discussing books in Dick’s library and got into an argument about English history. This went on for a few minutes only to have Barbara pipe up and say “You’re both wrong” and provide the correct information. They were quite a pair and equally talented. We would sometimes visit with Dick and Barbara after they retired and my children always wanted to hear the joke about the Wide Mouthed Frog again.

We are very thankful to have so many great memories of our time with Dick and with Barbara. Certainly lives well lived and accomplishments that will live on. We miss you both.





Fred & Candice Stults - September 02, 2019 at 04:42 PM



“ I was fortunate to get to know Dick Hall well when I became a member of the FEMA board. Prior to that I knew him as an attendee at meetings. I was struck by his wisdom and patience. I always thought that if God had a voice it would sound like Dick’s. He sat next to me many times at board meetings serving as historian and mentor to me. His knowledge, thoughtfulness and kindness were amazing. Certainly he exemplifies a life well lived! Rest In Peace Dick. You meant so much to our industry and so many of us.



Bob Pellegrino - August 29, 2019 at 09:31 AM

HD

“ Knowing Dick Hall on a social, rather than professional, level was a result of geography and two very active wives. Barbara Hall and Nancy Davenport were good friends and fellow volunteer workers. Dick and I just happened to be there, and it was my extremely good fortune to have become good friends of a most engaging and learned man . His absence from our mutual home. - Blakehurst - will be sorely felt.
Harry Davenport

Harold Davenport - August 28, 2019 at 05:27 PM

SR

“ A brilliant man, an excellent scientist, and an outstanding speaker. The first task assigned to me when I started working in the McCormick R&D Research Library was to find the source for a fact / quote Dr. Hall had included in a speech he had made and was not converting into a printed article. I learned a great deal about cholera in the process. In fact, over the course of the next 10 years, doing his requested research for some of Dr. Hall's speeches and articles taught me a great deal about food science and flavor chemistry. This was especially true as a team of us built the background material Dr. Hall needed to testify before Congress regarding some legislation pertinent to the flavor industry. He always wanted to be thoroughly prepared. He was logical, organized, and up-to-the-minute in his info about the flavor industry and food additives. Once he sent us looking for an article he swore he had read in Scientific American about Absinthe, wormwood and a farmer who went berserk and killed his entire family. For the life of us we could not find it. About 10 years later, the most recently published issue of Scientific American appeared on my desk, with a headline about an included article on Absinthe and wormwood. Sure enough, the story about the farmer was included. I sent Dr. Hall a copy, with a note asking if he could predict the future lottery numbers as well. He called me when he received it, laughing, and said this was the first and only time he had ever predicted the publication he hadn't authored. He was a most interesting man to work for, and a delightful acquaintance after he retired.

Sally Riley

Sally Riley - August 26, 2019 at 11:38 PM

DS

“ I had the extreme good fortune to be able to work with Dick as a member of the FEMA Board. Dick was at that time an advisor to the Board and his sage advice always served us well.



Dan Thompson had it right when he said, “ I wish I could write as well as Dick Hall speaks”!

Dick and Barbara welcomed my wife Debbie and me into the FEMA family. Both did this without any pretense despite their superstar status.

We in the Flavor industry owe a debt of gratitude to Dick for his wisdom, forethought and genius. He is the father of GRAS and the Expert Panel. This concept and organization gave our industry the gravitas and data necessary for our industry to be self regulated.

Dick and Barbara are in our prayers.

Dan & Debbie Stebbins

Dan Stebbins - August 26, 2019 at 09:23 PM

JK

“ In 1967, I had the good fortune to be hired by Dr. Richard Hall who, at the time, was the founder and head of the Research and Development Department at McCormick & Company. As I worked with him on various projects, I was always impressed with his intelligence, patience, good humor, and the many long hours he put into his various activities. In fact, he flew to so many different cities and countries, that someone actually sent him an airplane seat which he proudly displayed in his office for some time. I know that like many I will always remember him as a brilliant scientist, administrator, and as one of those rare individuals who has left me with memories that make life worth living. He was certainly a mentor and inspiration to a generation of scientists and engineers, and I along with many others will miss him sorely. My heartfelt condolences to his family.

Jerry Kahan



Jerry Kahan - August 23, 2019 at 03:53 PM

KR

“ I had the pleasure of knowing and working with Dr. Hall in the context of FEMA and the Board of Governors. I appreciated and valued his practical and critical thinking, as well as historical perspective. I was extremely honored a few months ago to receive the Richard L. Hall Distinguished Service Award from FEMA. It is truly one of the greatest highlights of my career. Dr. Hall's gentleness, patience, collaborative approach and amazing intellect are just a part of what I appreciated and respected most. Condolences to Dr. Hall's family. Godspeed Dick...
Kevin Renskers

Kevin Renskers - August 22, 2019 at 01:27 PM

JH

“ Dr. Hall was first a mentor, then a colleague, and then a friend over almost 40 years. Dick had an enormous, positive effect on my life with his guidance, generosity and kindness. I treasure the time we had together visiting near the end of 2017. I send my condolences and best wishes to Dick's family and all who knew him and loved him.
John Hallagan



John Hallagan - August 21, 2019 at 10:37 AM