

## In Memoriam - Jonathan Ewart Blanchard

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Mon 8/25/2003 3:27 PM

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### IN MEMORIAM

It is with regret that we inform the university community that

Jonathan Ewart Blanchard, Ph.D.

died on August 22, in Camp Hill Veterans' Memorial Building, QEII, Halifax.

He was a son of the late Aubrey B. and Agnes George (Blair)

Blanchard. He was born

in 1921 in Bible Hill, where he graduated from Truro Academy. He received his B.Sc. from Dalhousie University in 1940. He joined the Meteorology Service of Canada with the Commonwealth Air Training Program, then enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy. He served on convoy duty in the North Atlantic for four years during the Second World War. Following the war, he earned his doctorate in geophysics at the University of Toronto. He returned to Nova Scotia in 1949 and joined the Physics Department at Dalhousie. Between 1949 and 1968, Ewart was a key member of the physics department. During that time he taught courses from first year to the graduate level and he was highly respected by the students for his expert knowledge and mastery of geophysics. He had a broad range of interests and always managed to see the practical side of a problem, and showed students that physics was relevant not just in the classroom, but out in the real world. Each summer, Ewart hired students to do geophysics field-work in many parts of Nova Scotia. For those students, these summer jobs of prospecting for oil and other riches were the most memorable in their student years and many of them went on to earn higher degrees in geophysics. One of Ewart's most amazing qualities was his memory for people, names, and events. If in doubt, you could always get the correct facts from Ewart.

He left the university in 1968 to become vice-president and subsequently the second president of the Nova Scotia Research Foundation Corporation. Under his leadership the organization evolved from a small laboratory into the research scientific boards and councils. He was a long-time member-at-large for the Canadian Commission of UNESCO. He was made a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1968. He received an honorary LLD from Dalhousie in 2000.

Despite declining health, he remained keenly interested in all fields

of science, attending special lectures and keeping up with the literature.

He is survived by his wife, Mary (Sandilands); son, Jonathan S. (Kimberlee Barro); daughter, Megan B. (Michael Reynolds); granddaughters, Lucy and Sophia. He was predeceased by his older brother, Henry B. and an infant son. The family will be at home at 6470 Coburg Rd., on Monday, August 25, from 3-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. There will be a family committal service Tuesday morning in Robie Street Cemetery, Truro. Donations in Ewart's memory may be made to the Physics Department, Dalhousie University or Parkinson Society of Canada, Maritime Region.

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