

ALBERT E. BEDWORTH



ITHACA - Albert E. Bedworth, of Ithaca, died January 27, 2004, after a long illness. He was 79. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Shirley Franklin-Bedworth; his son, Dr. David A. Bedworth and his fiancée, Theresa L. Lamberton, of Cadyville, NY; his grandchildren, Jodi Bedworth-Holgado and grandson-in-law, Joseph Holgado, of Ontario, NY; and Michael D. Bedworth and his wife, Amber Callahan-Bedworth, of Fairport, NY; his sister, June Robbins, of Syracuse; his brother-in-law, Louis Withiam, of Ithaca; his sister-in-law, Gerry Bedworth, of Syracuse; and numerous nieces and nephews. Mr. Bedworth is also survived by his great-grandchildren, Jakob, Logan, and Emma Holgado.

Albert Bedworth was born on November 2, 1924 in Utica. He was predeceased by his father, Dr. William Bedworth, of Syracuse; his mother, Martha Reichel-Bedworth, of Marathon, NY; his sister, Martha Bedworth-Withiam, of Ithaca; and his brothers, William Bedworth and Robert Bedworth, both of Syracuse. He was also predeceased by his sister-in-law, Mary Alice Bedworth, the wife of his brother William, and sister of his wife, Shirley.

Mr. Bedworth was a veteran of World War II, serving in the India-Burma-China Theater. As a member of the Army Air Corps, he was one of the pioneers in the implementation of radar technology.

Mr. Bedworth received his Bachelor's degree in Health and Physical Education from Cortland State Teachers College in 1951, and his Master's degree in Science Education from the same institution in 1956. He also did post-graduate studies in Cornell University and Syracuse University.

Mr. Bedworth taught in the Eden, New York Central School District, after which he spent a year working for Bristol Laboratories in Syracuse. He then taught in the Forestport, New York Central School District before accepting a teaching position in the Ithaca City School District in 1953. His tenure in Ithaca lasted for seventeen years. During that time, he taught health education in the Ithaca Senior High School. He also served as Director of Health Education for the district, and developed the structure for, and served as BOCES Health Coordinator beginning in 1967. This regional model for the coordination of health education has served as a model for the State and the Nation in both school health and community health education activities. During the summers of 1960-1967 he was also a visiting professor of health education in the State University College at Plattsburgh; and between 1967 and 1970, he was an adjunct professor of health education in the State University College at Cortland. He also held adjunct teaching appointments in Cornell University and Russell Sage College.

While in Ithaca, Mr. Bedworth served in a variety of public service positions, particularly dealing in the area of public health. Most notably, he served as President of the Tompkins County Mental Health Board. He also served as President of the New York State Council of Health Education; and, in Ithaca, he served as president of the Ithaca Teachers Association. In addition, he was a curriculum consultant to many school districts across New York State.

In 1970, Mr. Bedworth accepted a position with the New York State Education Department as Associate in the Bureau of Health and Drug Education Services. He continued in that role until his retirement in 1979. During this time, he and his wife resided in Hillsdale, New York. While in Albany, he was honored by the American Cancer Society for directing the development of the State's Cancer Education Curriculum. He was also a charter member and the first Executive Director of the New York State Federation of Professional Health Educators. In the late 1980's, Mr. Bedworth served as Treasurer of the Adirondack Council for research. Experimentation and Services. For many years, he was also a member of the American Public Health Association, and the American School Health Association.

Mr Bedworth was the founder and Executive Editor of the Journal of Drug Education, still a highly respected health journal. He was also an author of four college-level health and drug education textbooks. At the time of his death, he was working on other health education manuscripts; including Bedworths' Standard Cyclopedic Dictionary of Health Education, which will be published in the near future.

Mass of Christian Burial will be Saturday, 10:00am at Immaculate Conception R.C. Church. Burial will follow in the Calvary Cemetery, Ithaca, NY. The family will receive friends on Friday between the hours of 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. at the Lansing Funeral Home, Inc., 32 Auburn Road, Lansing, NY. An announcement will be published at a later date regarding donations in his memory.

He will be highly missed by his family, his friends, his professional colleagues, and the thousands of students whom he touched. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, teacher and colleague. He was the last health educator.

Posted in The Ithaca Journal (Ithaca, New York): 29 Jan 2004, Thu- Page 4