IN MEMORIAM

R. J. Michael Fry, MD
1925–2017

Richard Jeremy (Michael) Fry died peacefully Friday, November 24, 2017, at age 92. He and his wife Shirley, three sons and their families, including eight grandchildren, had celebrated Thanksgiving together just the day before.

Michael was that rare individual, a gentle scientific giant, trailblazer and true gentleman. He was a lovely man with a keen wit and sense of humor, brilliant, and he made you laugh! For all of us who were fortunate enough to have known him, Michael was a source of inspiration, a model of scientific integrity, graciousness and humility.

Michael came from the land of leprechauns and enjoyed entertaining and convincing children of the existence and powers of the “little people”, which he kept safely in his pocket. He was born in Dublin in 1925 and his alma mater was the University of Dublin, Trinity College. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1946, his medical degree in 1949 and his postgraduate M.D. in 1962. He spent 10 years as a teacher of physiology at the University of Dublin Medical School. He was an avid sports enthusiast, participating in hockey, tennis and golf, and had a passion for hill climbing. During his time teaching at the medical school, Michael became infatuated with a young English woman named Shirley Jackson. They were happily married for well over 50 years. Shirley became an accomplished professional, and was actively involved in radiation science and in leadership, including serving as the Assistant Director of the Medical Science Division of Oak Ridge Associated Universities from 1980 until 1995. Together, Michael and Shirley provided an outstanding example of a highly successful two-career family in science, when such examples were few and far between.