

Kenneth R. Lawless

Kenneth R. Lawless died Aug. 24, 2007. He served in the U.S. Army Air Forces attaining the rank of captain. He received a Fulbright Fellowship and spent a year conducting research at the Norwegian Institute of Technology in Trondheim. Mr. Lawless served as a research scientist and professor at U.Va. for more than 40 years. retiring in 1992 as a professor emeritus. Among his many contributions to the University, he was instrumental in creating the Department of Materials Science and Engineering and served as its chairman for 10 years. Mr. Lawless was an internationally recognized authority in the field of electron microscopy. He served as president of the Virginia Academy of Sciences and councilor, treasurer and member emeritus of the Microscopy Society of America. In 1989, Mr. Lawless was selected for membership in the Fellows of the Virginia Academy of Science. Among numerous awards and commendations, he received the J. Shelton Horsley Research Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Virginia Academy of Science for original research. He also received the Morton D. Maser Distinguished Service Award from the Microscopy Society of America. He was a member of Alpha Chi Sigma chemistry fraternity, Sigma Xi, Phi Beta Kappa and the Raven Society. At various times, Mr. Lawless served on the Fulbright Fellowship selection committee and the U.Va. Medical School admissions committee. He was also an ornithologist, field botanist and nature photographer. He was a longtime member of the Virginia Society of Ornithology and the Virginia Native Plant Society. A photographer of wildflowers, he conducted exhibits and lectures at the National Arboretum, the Nature Conservancy and elsewhere. Survivors include children Kenneth W. Lawless (Col.' 77) and Lelia-Anne Lawless (Col' 84, Educ' 92).