

**Wimberly Calvin Royster.** Was born January 12, 1925, near Robards, Henderson County, KY, the second child of Fred and Ruth Denton Royster. He died at home with surrounded by his family on Wednesday, February 19, 2014.

Dr. Royster started his career in education as valedictorian Robards High School in 1942, graduated from Murray State Teachers' College in 1946; and attended graduate school at the University of Kentucky earning both an M.A. (1948) and Ph.D. (1952) both in Mathematics. He was honored for his service to the University of Kentucky and the state of Kentucky with an honorary doctorate from UK in 2001.

Dr. Royster served as an assistant professor of Mathematics at Auburn University from 1952-56 and a computer analyst for the US Army at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD in 1955. In 1956 he returned to UK where he spent the remainder of his career and his life. At the University of Kentucky he was an assistant professor of mathematics (1956-58), associate professor of mathematics (1958-62), full professor, (1962-1992). Beginning in 1963, Dr. Royster began serving the university with several administrative appointments – chairman of the Math Department (1963-69); Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, (1969-72); Dean of Graduate School, Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies, (1972-90); Special Assistant to the President, (1990-92); Vice president, UK Research Foundation, (1973-1990); and Director, Advance Science and Technology Commercialization Center (ASTeCC) (1988-92).

Upon retirement from the UK in 1992, Dr. Royster continued his work with science and mathematics education in the state of Kentucky as Vice President & Director, Scientific Research & Policy, Kentucky Science Technology Corporation, (1992-2013); Principal Investigator, Appalachian Rural Systemic Initiative (NSF) 1995-2000; Chair, Kentucky Statewide EPSCoR Committee (2002-2011); Director, Appalachian Mathematics and Science Partnership, (2002-2004); and Co-Director, Appalachian Rural Education Network, Annenberg Rural Challenge.

Due to his service he was awarded the Kentucky Academy of Sciences Superlative Award in 2009 and named to the UK College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Hall of Fame in the same year.

Dr. Royster represented the University of Kentucky and the state of Kentucky on numerous national research and graduate councils – serving on the boards of such as the Oak Ridge Associated Universities Council; Conference of Southern Graduate Schools; Council of Graduate Schools; the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Southeastern Universities Research Association.

Known as “Judge” to family and friends growing up in Western Kentucky, he had three main loves – his wife Betty, his family, and his university. He was a polio and cancer survivor. He loved dogs, horses, baseball, music, humor, and bird hunting. He was a longtime member (65+ years) of First United Methodist Church and its choir.

Survived by wife Betty Jo Barnett Royster originally of Somerset, sons and daughters-in-law David and Norma Royster of Lexington, Paul Royster and Jane Remus of Lincoln, Nebraska; sister Valara Heierman of Cairo, KY, grandchildren Thomas Royster, Elizabeth Royster, and James Royster; nephews Charles Royster, William A. Heierman, and Daniel Heierman; niece Jean Ellen Swearingen; three grandnieces and three grandnephews. Preceded in death by his brother Ferd Royster, sister-in-law Laura Royster, brother-in-law William B. Heierman, and a grandson Robert Royster.

**Visitation:** Sunday, February 23, 5:00–8:00 PM, Milward Funeral Directors, 391 Southland Drive, Lexington, KY 40503

**Services:** Monday, February 24, 2:00 PM, First United Methodist Church, 200 W High St, Lexington, KY 40507, with interment to follow at the Lexington Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made to:  
Royster Graduate Student Excellence Award in Arts and Sciences  
100 Sturgill Development Building  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, KY 40506-0015