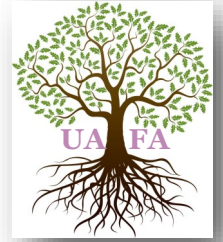


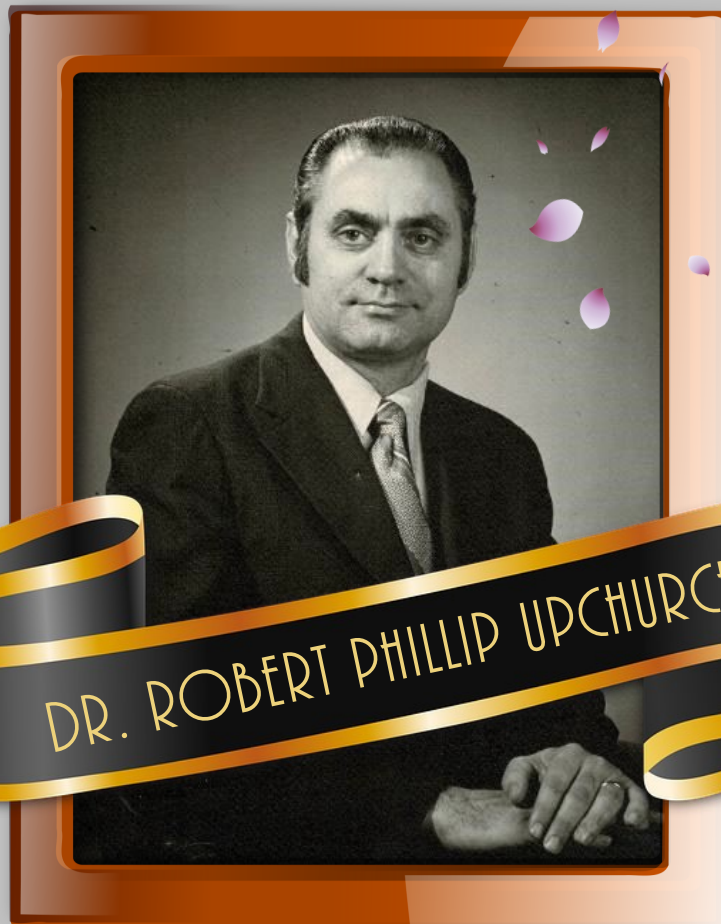
June 15, 2020

UPCHURCH & ALLIED FAMILIES ASSOC.



UAFA National Home Office | 1130 Kildaire Farm Road, Suite 120 | Cary, NC 27511-4594

In Memoriam



DR. ROBERT PHILLIP UPCHURCH

February 9, 1928 - May 27, 2020



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surrogate family to emulate. He joined the program full-time in 1944 as a high school drop-out. Never having received a high school diploma, he nevertheless went on to earn B. S. and M. S. degrees in Agronomy at N. C. State and a PhD in Plant Physiology at the University of California-Davis. In 1953 he returned to N. C State University as an Assistant Professor where he rose to full Professor status by the time of his departure in 1965. During

A Message From UAFA President Dr. David Thomas Upchurch

As President of Upchurch and Allied Families Association, Inc. it is my sad duty to report the passing of my friend and cousin Dr. Robert Phillip Upchurch, the founder of our Association. Phil died of pancreatic cancer at 8:30 AM Central Time on May 27, 2020 at his home in Missouri where he had lived since retirement in 1995 from the University of Arizona.

He is survived by his wife Sallaine after seventy-one years of a charmed marriage and by his three children Nelda Schuler, Debra Heck and Barry Upchurch. He was the dedicated Patriarch of a large family of 25 members that include eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Phil was born on February 9, 1928 in Wake County, NC in poverty but with loving parents. He was fortunate to become a fourteen-year-old student employee in an agricultural program at N. C. State University and adopted the professors as his

his time at N.C. State University he rapidly achieved an international reputation as a stellar performer in the field of Weed Science and in 1963 earned the award as the most outstanding young researcher at N. C. state University.

He was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force in 1949 and retired in 1967 after serving 2 years active duty and 16 years in the reserves.

Phil continued as a research leader from 1965 to 1975 at Monsanto in St. Louis, MO a position he took to broaden his experience. From 1975 to 1995 he served as an administrator in the University of Arizona in several roles including head of the Plant Sciences Department, Director of Agricultural Development, Associate Dean for agricultural academic affairs and finally as Director of Arboretum Affairs. In Arizona Phil was widely recognized for his vision and dynamic leadership of programs and especially for his creation of the Desert Legume Program.

He established an extensive land program from 1985-2015 resulting in a 2,000-acre farming operation which brought him immense enjoyment.

Continued page 3

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

DID YOU KNOW??? There are over 30 videos of Dr. Phil Upchurch telling stories and talking about Upchurch Family History and Genealogy, thanks to our President Dr. Tom Upchurch, who made it possible, a few years ago. Click on the video link below to see Founder, Dr. Phil Upchurch and UAFA President Dr. Tom Upchurch!

Please click here on [VIDEO](#) now or go directly to our UAFA Video Library on [YouTube](#)

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A Message From UAFA President... continued

Phil was recognized as a dynamic leader in five national professional societies. He founded the Plant Growth Regulation Society of America and served as president of that and two other organizations. He was widely sought as a consultant for the U. S. government, industry, and the National Academy of Sciences. For eight years he served as a plant sciences adviser to the President of Eli Lilly. He also headed an agricultural program for the U.S. State Department in Yemen.

Phil was intensely attracted to family history which he pursued aggressively for fifty years. For 37 years he published the Upchurch Bulletin in which he identified 62,000+ members of our American Upchurch family. In the process he assembled and organized in an elegant fashion a huge family history collection. By 2000, Phil was prepared to archive his paper Collection at the North Carolina State University and close shop. I convinced him to consider conversion of his work from paper to digital so his work could be duplicated and shared with the world via the Internet. After that, there was no stopping him. The vision of Upchurch and Allied Families Association (UAFA) was born and it was formally organized in 2013. Phil served as provider of background information, fundraiser, manager and guide. Thanks to thousands of hours of work by many others the fruits of Phil's fifty-year family history journey are now preserved in digital form and are available to all on our website, on UAFA sponsored Ancestry.com family trees and in

YouTube videos. His work combined with others who have contributed their own extensive collections to UAFA is spectacularly displayed in an the Ancestry.com American Upchurch Family Tree that holds over 100 thousand related individuals. These online treasures are attracting attention in family history circles nationally and internationally and is inspiring volunteers and donors to provide ever increasing support.

Phil and I have become like brothers as we have engaged on our shared Upchurch heritage over the last thirty years. His vision and energies have enhanced my appreciation of my family history and I know that thousands have developed a similar appreciation for his exceptional dedication to the history of Upchurch and Allied Families. We can know that he will rest in peace having passed knowing that his deep engagement in our American story is being carried forward for generations to appreciate.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Thomas Upchurch, M. D.

Suwanee, Georgia
President, Upchurch and Allied
Families Association.



Dr. Robert Phillip Upchurch and Sallaine Sledge Upchurch



Many people thought there was a resemblance between Dr. Phil Upchurch and Actor Ernest Borgnine.

Dogwood trees symbolize life. The flowers of the dogwood tree form a perfect cross, which is why it became associated with Easter as a tree of renewal and beginnings.

Final arrangements were managed by Buchholz West Mortuary, 2211 Clarkson Rd, Chesterfield, Missouri. Services were limited to 10 people because of isolation rules. The family has requested no flowers but encourage all who wish to memorialize Phil's many contributions to society to do so by a donation in his name to either:

UAFA c/o Upchurch Realty, 173 Long Rd, Suite 108, Chesterfield, MO 63005 or
Friends of the Library, NCSU Box 7111, Raleigh, NC 27265-7111.
(both institutions are 501(c)3 non-profit)



How the Story Began

Growing up in the presence of my Upchurch uncles and aunts and hearing a little about their father and his Civil War service gave me a basis for serious study of my Upchurch heritage in later years.

In this era as I reached adulthood, there was a seminal family event that served as an added emphasis to my family heritage effort when it later surfaced in the late 1960s. The event included my Uncle Gettis to whom I had become close. I had not realized that he was the repository of Upchurch family lore until he made a special request of me in 1955.

He had ordered and inscribed a granite monument about 1 foot by 2 feet for his grandfather Gilbert Upchurch (1792-1845). He asked me to provide transportation for us to go about 15 miles west to Green Level in Wake County, North

Carolina, where he hoped to find a legitimate place for the stone.

We had little to go on and made no progress in our quest. Returning home, the stone was placed in Inwood Church Cemetery where it has since resided, the actual interment site of Gilbert Upchurch remaining unknown.

However, the significant development was that in the process, I peppered my uncle with questions about his heritage and wrote down the answers. Many years later, those notes surfaced and gave me a head start on documenting my Upchurch heritage.



Editors Note: The words and story on this page comes from Dr. Phil Upchurch's own Memoir, *From City Shadows*.



The photo at left, taken about 1990, showing my son Barrett Phillip Upchurch, tells several stories. The setting is Inwood Baptist Church Cemetery in Wake County, NC. The stone at Barry's feet is for Bartley Jefferson Upchurch, my grandfather, who gave land for the church and cemetery to be established in 1877. The tall stone is for my great grandmother, Lucretia (Mills) Upchurch, the first buried in the cemetery. The small stone to the left is for Gilbert Upchurch 1792-1845, who is actually not buried there. Nearby are many of my relatives, including my parents.

