



VERA B. REMSBURG  
(1920-2000)

The Officers and Council of the Virginia Academy of Science sadly note the death of Vera Baron Remsburg, past president of the Academy. Vera was born, 1920, in Raleigh, West Virginia and expired after a protracted illness on December 26, 2000 at the home of her sister, Mrs Josephine B. DeShazo in Spencer, Va.

Vera was a long-time and very active member of the Academy, serving on many committees, including the Junior Academy Committee, where her career as a public school science teacher came to bear on her dedication to science education. Vera was also active in the formation of the Virginia Association of Science Teachers (VAST) and served as president of that organization 1960-1962. In the early 60's she worked with the American Institute of Biological Sciences in promoting the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study (BSCS) in the state of Virginia. She was one of the first biology science teachers to instruct using the "Green Version" of BSCS.

In 1975 Vera was elevated to Fellow status in the VAS (along with Horton H. Hobbs, her graduate school mentor from The University of Virginia). Vera was elected 1979 as the 57th president of the VAS and, in 1986, her tireless work for the Academy was recognized by the Ivey F. Lewis Distinguished Service Award.

Vera worked with president, Roscoe D. Hughes in building the groundwork for what has become the Science Museum of Virginia (SMV). Vera served (1985-1995) as a Trustee of the SMV, while maintaining focus on the many programs of the VAS, including a long tenure on VAS Council.

After retirement from public school teaching in northern Virginia, Vera and her husband, Brent Rensburg, moved to Abingdon, Va. where she resumed teaching, pursued gardening and served in officership roles in many community organizations (Book-lovers Club of Abingdon, Abingdon Garden Club, Abingdon Tree Committee, Barter Theater for the Shakespearean Garden, Virginia Highlands Festival Board, Eashington County Retired Teachers Association, Va, Federation of Garden Clubs) . She was a member of the Alpha Zeta Chapter of Delta Gamma International Honorary Society of Women Educators. In 1981 Longwood College Alumni Association presented her with their Distinguished Alumnus Service Award.

Once in awhile there comes to the Virginia Academy of Science an activist with conservative bent and great energy who relentlessly strives for improvement towards perfection of our organization. Such a person was Vera Baron Rensburg.