

In Memoriam: William Lawrence Brown, Sr.

By Allen Owings—Robert, Louisiana

William Lawrence (Larry) Brown of Hammond, Louisiana, died peacefully on October 12, 2022, at the age of 90. Larry was a founding member of the Louisiana Chapter—Azalea Society of America. Larry and his wife Flo attended many national ASA conventions over the years.

A native of Bessemer, Alabama, Larry moved to Hammond in 1959, with his wife Flora, to work as an ornamental horticulturist at LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station where he specialized in breeding azaleas for over 30 years and conducted nursery crop cultural practices research. 'Southern Summer Rose' was his creation and there are other azalea selections scattered around south Louisiana that were never officially released that were a result of his plant breeding efforts.

Larry loved creating beauty, often contributing floral arrangements to the First Presbyterian Church, where he was a former deacon and elder. He was a long-time member of the Hammond Kiwanis Club and a board member of the local Habitat for Humanity®.

Larry received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Auburn University and doctorate from Mississippi State University and was a veteran of the U.S. Army, where he served in Germany. He often attributed his love of traveling to his time in the Army and being able to take short trips to other cities of Europe. It was a hobby his wife was happy to share with him.



Larry is survived by his wife of 63 years, Flora Ann Cason Brown; children Susan Voisin (David), Mary Ann Noble (Gary), and William (Bill) Brown, Jr., (Kate); and grandchildren Tyler Noble (Andrea), Will Noble, Elena Voisin, Caroline Noble, and Scheherazade Brown. He is preceded in death by his parents, Milton and Elaine Brown, and his brother, Milton Perry Brown, Jr. He will be missed.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to First Presbyterian Church of Hammond or Habitat for Humanity. The family wishes to thank the staff of Summerfield Senior Living and Modern Hospice for all their assistance. A memorial service was held on October 29 in Hammond, LA.

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