

RESOLUTION OF RESPECT



WILLIAM A. DAYTON

William A. Dayton, noted plant scientist, died en route to his home, 4818 24th N., Arlington, Virginia, from a heart attack, October 20, 1958. He had served as collaborator with the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture since his retirement in 1955 after 45 years of service.

Mr. Dayton was born on December 4, 1885, in New York City. He received his B. A. and M. A. degrees from Williams College in 1905 and 1908 respectively. He entered the Forest Service in 1910 as a Plant Ecologist. In 1914 he was placed in charge of range forage investigations in the Washington office where he served until his retirement.

Mr Dayton won wide recognition as an international authority for

his original and outstanding research and leadership in taxonomy, ecology, phylogeny and economic value of grasses, browse plants, trees, and related forest and range vegetation. He pioneered in range forage investigations and did more than any other man to systematize the nomenclature of range forage plants.

In 1911, about a year after Mr. Dayton came into the Forest Service, he started and has subsequently been responsible for building up the Forest Service Range Plant Herbarium, which now consists of more than 120,000 specimens. His range work resulted in the preparation of two outstanding publications of the U S Department of Agriculture, "Important Western Browse Plants" (1931) and "Range Plant Handbook" (1937). He was also author of more than 140 published articles and reports.

In 1940, Mr Dayton was appointed U. S. D. A. representative on the Editorial Committee of "Standardized Plant Names," and was co-author of this book, containing some 90,000 entries, published in January, 1942.

In 1943, he was appointed a member of the Costa Rica Forest Survey party. This survey party discovered the famous Copey oak forest — perhaps the largest oak forest in the world.

He was delegate to the UNESCO International Conference on the Protection of Nature at Lake Success, New York, in 1949, a delegate to the 7th International Botanical Congress at Stockholm, Sweden, in 1950, and served as head of Section E, Ecology of Grasslands, 6th International Grassland Congress, State College, Pennsylvania, in 1952.

He was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of 20 other scientific societies, including three international ones. He was vice president of the Washington Academy of Sciences and served as president of the Botanical and Biological Societies of Washington. He represented the Ecological Society of America on the Governing Board of the AIBS. He was chairman of the Forest Service Tree and Range Plant Name Committee and of the Society of American Foresters Tree Name Committee and has served on Department of Agriculture nomenclature committees.

In June, 1955, Mr. Dayton was awarded the Department of Agriculture Distinguished Service Award "for conducting and providing leadership in carrying out important research on the taxonomy and ecology of grasses, browse plants, trees and related forest and range vegetation."

Mr Dayton is survived by his wife, Helen R. Dayton, two sons, William Adams Dayton of Arlington, Virginia, Orlo Hazen Dayton of Baltimore, Maryland, and a daughter, Mrs Merrill Aukland of Athens, Ohio.

(The original resolution written by Mr. Kenneth W. Parker).

C. J. Goodnight
R. W. Kelting
L. B. Slobodkin
W. T. Penfound, Chairman