**Dr. John Solie  
June 26, 1946, September 26, 2019**

As people come and go from our great university, regardless of their position, academic rank or title, they circulate images in our minds that last forever. Those images combined with salient conversations reflect what we may or may not have thought. Some of those images are archived on the following web page that celebrates his professional life and that of Dr. Marvin Stone who was his closest colleague at OSU (<http://nue.okstate.edu/Stone_Solie.html>).

This document aims to distill some of his stellar career into something of value for all. Dr. John Solie was a great son, brother, husband, father, and friend and will always be remembered as a great communicator and scientist.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland near to where his father worked for the CIA. He later earned a Juris Doctor degree from Creighton Law School in Omaha where he studied under Jesuit priests. He farmed near Auburn, Nebraska, and also practiced law. Over this period, he also found the time to earn a PhD in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Nebraska. In 1982 he was employed as an Assistant Professor at Oklahoma State University where he would go on to serve for 28 years.

Oklahoma State University Membership   
Assistant, Associate, 1982-1990 Amer. Soc. of Agric. and Biological Engineers  
Professor, 1991 Nebraska Bar Association  
Regents Professor, 1992 Society of Automotive Engineers   
  
Some Highlights from his career at OSU include

Regents Distinguished Research Award, Oklahoma State University, 2006  
Fellow, ASABE – American Society for Agricultural and Biological Engineers, 2004  
Inventor and Team Leader, Greenseeker active NDVI sensor, now sold all over the world  
Sarkeys Distinguished Professor and Professorship 1998, 2003,  
United States Department of Agriculture Secretary’s Honor Award, 2002– GreenSeeker Team Leader  
National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences, Invited Speaker   
Patents (Issued or allowed), 13  
Refereed Journal Publications, 82

Dr. Solie was a committed and storied teacher having taught many sections of engineering classes that ranged from ‘small gas engines’ to ‘machinery for production and processing’. He was also the first instructor for ‘precision agriculture’ that was listed for both Engineering and Agronomy. One of his more recognized graduate students, Dr. Randy Taylor is now the Assistant Director of Extension in DASNR. His undergraduate and graduate students were all dear to him evidenced in the time and energy he devoted to their success. One of those students was John Ringer who is now a senior design manager at Ditch Witch. It is virtually impossible to campus the volume of research, teaching and extension products that Dr. Solie delivered to Oklahoma. Nonetheless, written testaments coming from his students continue to honor him.

The Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources has truly lost a great man.