Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
On the Death of Professor Emeritus Frederick O. Leidel

Frederick Otto Leidel, age 102, passed away on Friday, September 20, 2019. He was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on December 3, 1916, to Alma and Otto Frederick Leidel.

Despite growing up during the great depression, Fred graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in June 1940. He worked for the Hamilton Standard Propeller Division of United Aircraft Corporation during World War II, designing propeller blades for such aircrafts as the P-51 Mustang and the B-17 and B-29 bombers. He joined the University of Wisconsin faculty following World War II as Professor of Engineering-Drawing and Descriptive Geometry, and Associate Dean of Engineering-Freshmen. He retired in 1982 and was awarded emeritus status in the Department of General Engineering.

Following his retirement, Fred remained an active member of the Madison community. He was active in the Lake Edge Lutheran Church and the Masons. He also regularly attended gatherings of local World War II veterans. In his neighborhood, he was well known for riding his bicycle nearly every day through his 90s. The bicycle become three-wheeled at some point and near the end of his bike riding, his walker would be thrown into the basket behind his seat. He was a long-time volunteer at Schenk Elementary School where he was known as “Grandpa Fred” and shared his passion for education by reading to kindergartners. He was recognized for this service in a “Making a Difference” segment on Channel 15.

Fred is survived by his son, James (Alice) Leidel; daughter, Linda Trowbridge; stepson, Russell (Jeanne) Lerum; granddaughters, Sara Kunkel (Gary) and Stacy Leidel (Ross Edwards); step-granddaughters, Elyse Lerum (Yier Shi) and Carla Lerum; great-grandchildren, Elizabeth Kunkel, Emily Kunkel, Eva Edwards and Will Edwards; step-great-grandsons, Treysen Shi and Myles Shi; step-daughters-in-law, Sally Lerum (James) and Nancy Lerum (Dennis); and special friend, Jonie Fobes. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Dorothy; his second wife Margarette; his stepsons, Dennis and James Lerum; and brother, Donald Leidel.