

Richard J. Glass



Richard J. Glass was born March 1, 1921 in Sissonville, WV on a 55-acre farm. Working and living on this farm developed an lifelong interest and passion for agriculture and science. After graduating high school in 1939, Richard attended Morris Harvey College for two years, majoring in Biology. Mr. Glass enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1941 and served for the duration of World War II. He was honorably discharged in 1945. Following his military service, Glass enrolled in the College of Agriculture at West Virginia University (WVU) in 1946, and in 1947, married Elizabeth “Betsy” Ellison, also a student at WVU. They proceeded to have two children, David in 1953 and Diane in 1955.

Glass graduated from WVU with a B.S. in Ag Education in 1949, and went on to teach in West Virginia public schools for 20-plus years. His teaching assignments included: Woodrow Wilson High School (Beckley, 1949-1953), Charles Town High School (1953-1956) and Masontown Valley High School (Preston County, 1958-1972). Mr. Glass was also the WVU Extension Agent in Fayette County from 1956-1958.

At Masontown, with Mr. Glass as their advisor, the FFA had the following degrees attained: 6 American Farmers, 60 State Farmers, 14 State Foundation Award winners, 2 North Atlantic Regional Award winners and 13 National Judging teams in livestock, dairy, poultry, dairy products and meat products. When the Preston County Educational Center was opened in 1972, Mr. Glass was asked to be the first administrator. He served in this position for 14 years until his retirement in 1986.

Among Mr. Glass’ many honors were: West Virginia Teacher of the Year (1971), recipient of the Gamma Sigma Delta Special Certificate of Merit for Distinguished Service to WV Agriculture in 1972, Outstanding Service Awards in 1978 and 1982 from the WV Vocational Association and an appointment to the Governor’s Joint Commission for Vocational, Technical and Occupational Education in 1990 (served eight years). Mr. Glass passed away in December 2009.