

CASPER GOFFMAN MEMORIAM



With great personal sadness we inform our readers that on September 25, 2006, Casper Goffman passed away at the age of 93. He was born June 1, 1913, in Cleveland, Ohio, and married Gertrude “Eve” Eisenberg on August 5, 1940. He is survived by Eve and five children. He received his Ph. D. in mathematics from The Ohio State University under the direction of Henry Blumberg in 1942. During his long and distinguished career he directed 23 doctoral students, the first in 1955 while he was still at The University of Oklahoma. He joined the faculty at Purdue University in 1957 and was instrumental in elevating the Mathematics Department at Purdue from primarily a service department to an important center for research in many areas of mathematics.

He published extensively and widely all through the latter half of the twentieth century and wrote several books during that time, as well. In spite of his outstanding contributions to research in mathematics, teaching was even more important. He is quoted as having said, “I consider myself primarily a teacher.” He had an excellent reputation for teaching among both undergraduate students and graduate students. He made himself available to colleagues and students