

“Paul Lachance made food safe for all of us.”

The scientist responsible for the research and development of aerospace flight food and astronaut nutrition at the NASA Manned Spacecraft Center (Houston, TX) and an internationally recognized professor at Rutgers University died of Parkinsonism in the McCarrick Care Center in Somerset, N.J. He was 83.

Rev. Dr. Paul A. Lachance was born in St. Johnsbury, Vt. on June 5, 1933. He graduated from St. Michael's College (Vt.) in 1955 and married his high school sweetheart, Thérèse Côté, in August of that same year in St. Mary Star of the Sea Church in Newport, Vt. They raised four children: Michael Paul, Peter André, Marc-André, and Susan Ann. After graduating from St. Michael's College (Vt.) in 1955 with a bachelor of science (with honors), he earned the degree of Doctor of Physiology in Biology (Cum Laude) from the University of Ottawa (Canada) in 1960.

After completing his service at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Lachance left the USAF as a First Lieutenant and became the first Flight Food and Nutrition Coordinator for the Manned Spacecraft Center at NASA in Houston, TX. He was responsible for establishing the Gemini/Apollo flight food systems. The Manned Spacecraft Center awarded him its Superior Achievement Award in 1967 for his work, including initiating the HACCP system for food safety which has potentially saved millions of people from becoming ill by a food-borne illness. He was recruited to teach at Cook College at Rutgers University (the State University of New Jersey) where he completed groundbreaking and memorable work for over 40 years. Lachance was the Founding and Emeritus Director of the Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods Institute of the Center for Advanced Food Technology. He was Professor Emeritus of Food Science at Rutgers University since 2005. He served as Chair of the Department of Food Science, Director of the Graduate Program in Food Science, Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees and Board of Governors, and was Chairman of the University Senate. He was most proud of his many Ph.D. and Masters Degree students and being an award-winning teacher.

He earned the William V. Cruess Award for Excellence in Teaching (IFT, 1991); Professor Endel Karmas Award for Excellence in Teaching Food Science, Rutgers Dept. of Food Science (1987-88); the John C. Hartnett Award for Distinction in Science, St. Michael's College (Vt.) 1982; Meritorious Achievement in Cereal Chemistry Award –

New York Section – American Assoc. of Cereal Chemists (1972); the Sustained Superior Performance Award (NASA, 1967); the Gemini Support Team Group Achievement Award (1966); Certificate of Appreciation, Dairy Research, Inc. (1973); the Phi Tau Sigma Award (Food Science Honor Society); and the Delta Epsilon Sigma (National Catholic Scholastic Honor Society), 1969. He has been recognized in *Who's Who in the World*, *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in the East American Men and Women in Science*, *International Who's Who of Professional Educators*, and *Who's Who in Technology Today*. For his lifetime of work, Dr. Lachance was honored with the 2008 NSF Food Safety Lifetime Leadership Award in Education and Technology. He was selected as being among the Two Thousand Men of Achievement in 1972. He had a reputation, according to a colleague, as a serious and careful scientist –the kind of guy who “has the technical expertise, but also a sense of what the consumer is looking for and wants to make the information available to them.”

Lachance was ordained a Permanent Deacon in the Roman Catholic Church in 1977, being among the first class of deacons in the Diocese of Trenton. He was appointed to work at St. Paul's in Princeton, where he officiated in innumerable masses, funerals, and weddings until his retirement in 2010. He performed the wedding ceremonies of each of his four children and baptized all nine grandchildren. He was invited to speak and work internationally, and his Washington commitments included participation in the White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, and Health (1969); expert testimony in FTC hearings on protein supplements, nutrition advertising, and children's advertising; presentation of the Nutrition Consortium's "National Nutrition Objective," and seven years as liaison for USAF and later NASA to the NAS/NRC's Food and Nutrition Board. Dr. Lachance has more than 400 publications to his credit and is particularly proud of a program he helped to develop in Guatemala whereby tortillas were fortified with soy, three B vitamins and vitamin A. Follow-up studies indicated that in those villages that adopted the program, infant mortality dropped by nearly 45 percent and infant morbidity dropped by 30 percent. He helped develop an accelerated method for measuring protein quality in humans and devised a fortification method. His work saved lives and saved an uncountable number of people around the world from being ill through his foundational work with HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points). He was elected as an original member of the St. Michael's College Academic Hall of Fame in 2002.

He leaves his sweetheart of over 61 years, Thérèse C. Lachance, his four children and their spouses/partners (Carole Lachance, Patti Malinowski Jensen, Amy LaChance, and Philip Shih). He leaves nine grandchildren he adored: Marcel Phillipe, Elijah Timmothy, AnnaGrace Thérèse, Beau Pierre, Joelle, Aline Dias (wife of Joel), Michaela, Zoey Maleekah, and Paul Thomas (Shih). He was predeceased by his father, Raymond, and mother, Lucienne and his brothers Raymond, Herbert, and Maurice. He leaves a sister Gloria and brother Richard, his Cote family, his Landry family, as well as many other relatives and friends. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the John C. Hartnett Endowment which was established in 2000 by Paul and Therese to honor Prof. Emeritus John C. Hartnett ('43) for his dedication to excellence in teaching and his outstanding influence on biology and other students at St. Michael's College for 44 years: St. Michael's College, Box 256, One Winooski Park, Colchester, VT 05439. Gifts can also be made online: www.smcvt.edu/giveback

Burial and services arranged through Mather-Hodge Funeral Home, Princeton, N.J. Funeral Mass is at 9:30 Saturday at St Paul's Church in Princeton. Rev. Dr. Lachance will be entombed in a mausoleum after mass at Holy Cross Burial Park in East Brunswick, N.J.
