

TRIBUTE TO MY MENTOR, ADVISOR AND TEACHER – THE LATE PROFESSOR  
DR. MARION LEROY JACKSON

My wife, Kim, and me are indeed greatly saddened by the belated news that Professor Dr. M. L. Jackson had passed away on Saturday, December 21, 2002. With the passing of Prof. Jackson, soil science has lost one of its foremost visionary scientists who had the greatest total knowledge of soils in breadth and depth and few peers in the areas of his professional interests. Apart from being a truly eminent scholar, a great educator, a man of vision, scientific integrity, extraordinary leadership and tremendous energy, Prof. Jackson had a sensitive and warm approach to people and took a personal and keen interest in his students' welfare and work.

I have the privilege and honour of being his penultimate Ph.D. graduate student (1977-81). I can still vividly remember the time I spent with him and Chrystie in the soils laboratory and his office discussing my research work as well as other scientific matters on the interrelationships between phenomena in pedology and related fields including health issues. Prof. ML's enormous capacity for synthesis, fertile imagination and great enthusiasm for inquiry is beyond imagination. As a 'young student' coming from a developing nation, Malaysia, I was awe-struck by his boundless energy but somehow I managed to keep up with him. To my wife and me, both Chrystie and Prof. treated us a part of their family. For this, we are indeed very grateful and we did enjoyed the numerous occasions in their home on festive holidays. Apart from doing research in the Soils Department, Prof also took me along to attend the various Soil Science Society Annual Meetings to widen my training and exposure. Indeed with his vigorous training, I owed him what I am today. He indeed had a decisive influence on my life and career. I salute you, Prof.

With his passing, my wife and me felt that we have lost a beloved family member. To Chrystie, Marjorie, Virginia and Stanley, we convey our heart felt condolences. Though Prof. may have left this world, his legacies and contributions to science will live forever.

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