

**John M. Smith
1938-1994**

John Melvin Smith, professor of mathematics at George Mason University and an active and devoted member of this Section for many years, died on February 26.

A native of Washington, Dr. Smith received his bachelor's degree from the University of Richmond, and his master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Maryland. He had taught at George Mason and its predecessor institutions since 1966 and was a former chair of the faculty senate there. He was also a consultant to the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

At the Spring meeting at St. Mary's College, Sr. Helen Christensen delivered the following remarks about John:

I remember John Smith in several ways:

1) as a concerned colleague and loyal friend, among whom I considered myself fortunate to be: perceptive and witty with a delightfully subtle yet incisive sense of humor;

2) as a math educator of prominence: the Maryland/DC/Virginia Section's first winner of the MAA Award for Distinguished Teaching of College or University Mathematics, and the moving force for the originating and sustaining of the Thomas Jefferson High School's annual Mathematics Day; and

3) as a mathematician devoted to the importance of mathematics and the work of the MAA: one who for his various avenues of service to the MD/DC/VA Section -- including Secretary, Chair, Governor, and collective memory of our section for past meeting sites, past officers, national meetings, etc. -- received the national MAA Award for Distinguished Service to our Section.

I take comfort in the conviction that after his long and valiant battle with cancer, John is now enjoying his richly-deserved reward. God grant him eternal grace!

Contributions in memory of Professor Smith may be made to the Mathematical Association of America or to the Vienna (Va.) Presbyterian Church.