

James Morton Allen of Lorton.

Jan 23, 1984
Dr. Norman Kallender Laffer, 76, a microbiologist who had been a professor and associate dean at the University of Maryland and a past national president of the American Society of Professional Biologists, died of a heart ailment Jan. 21 at the Washington Hospital Center.

He joined the faculty at College Park in 1946 as an associate professor of bacteriology, then served as assistant dean of the college of arts and sciences for 8 years, before returning to teaching in 1972. He retired in 1978 as a professor in the university's microbiology department. After that, he was a docent at the National Portrait Gallery.

He was a member of University United Methodist Church in College Park and the American Academy of Microbiologists.

Dr. Laffer, who lived in College Park, was a native of Meadville, Pa., and was a graduate of Allegheny College. He earned a master's degree at the University of Maine and his doctorate in microbiology at the University of Illinois. He served in the Army during World War II, attaining the rank of major.

Survivors include his wife, Esther of College Park; a son, Peter of Hyattsville; three daughters, Susan Updegrove of San Luis Obispo, Calif., Trudy George of Merrill, Wis., and Esther Smith of College Park; two sisters, Elizabeth Sceiford of North East, Pa., and Mary Olson of Wilmington, Del., and 11 grandchildren.

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