Winona resident Jerry Witt, former longtime local educator, died on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2013, at Lake Winona Manor. He was 78. Jerry R. Witt was born in Milwaukee, on Jan. 3, 1935. He was raised in Marshfield, Wis., and graduated from Marshfield High School as valedictorian in 1953. He attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison and the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

He taught chemistry for 37 years at WSU, mostly inorganic and physical chemistry. Jerry also worked at 3M, Battelle Memorial Institute, the UW-Green Bay and the Los Alamos National Laboratory. He was a 52-year member of the American Chemical Society and a long-time member of Wordos, a club in Minneapolis, mostly retired newspaper editors.

Jerry loved automobiles, chemistry, the English language and Elderhostels; he hated superstition. He also loved his students. Many did well, among them: Soo-Young Yang, CEO of Histogenetics in New York; Mary Jones, an MD at the Mayo Clinic; Navzer Sachinvalla, once ACS Chairman for the state of Louisiana; Jodi Hugenvic, Professor at Southern Illinois University; Jim Nadeau; Mike Baker; David Hassett; and Stuart Levin.

Jerry’s life-long love was Jean Ebbe, now an artist in San Francisco. He is survived by his brother Ron and two nephews, Ryan Witt and Jason Witt. He is remembered by two scholarships in his name: A chemistry scholarship at WSU and the Jerry R. Witt Scholarship in the Natural Sciences at Marshfield High School.

At Jerry’s request there will be no services. Martin-Myhre Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.