

We share with profound sadness that Alberto B. Broce passed away peacefully from complications associated with Parkinson's at his residence in Tucson, AZ, on Tuesday, November 12.

Alberto's journey began on January 2, 1942 in Las Tablas, Panama, born to Pine and Nicha Broce. They reared an impressive brood that included his older siblings Pinita Espino, Pinito Broce, and younger siblings Nichita Broce, Fernando Broce and Mari Broce. Alberto's parents instilled in them a tremendous work ethic and appreciation for studies, leading Alberto to live with an uncle in Panama City during high school so that he could attend the country's best school.

Graduating top of his class, Alberto garnered a scholarship to study agronomy at prestigious El Zamorano in Honduras. His scholastic achievements resulted in being offered scholarships to study at the University of Florida, where he obtained his B.S. ('65), M.S. ('67) and Ph.D. ('71). His Entomology dissertation on body lice was voted best in the entire graduate school. Most significantly, a fellow student caught Alberto's eye while there and about a year later, Alberto and Bobbie were wed in 1966. Soon after obtaining his doctorate, Alberto, Bobbie and sons Andy and Bruce moved to Chapingo, Mexico, where he was a professor of Entomology at the National Graduate School of Agriculture, from 1972-73. From 1973-1975 they lived in Fortín de las Flores, where he started working for Lockheed Electronics, and where daughter Maritza was adopted.



The family then returned stateside (Texas) where he continued working on the NASA-commissioned project to develop remote sensing technology for use in the screwworm eradication project. During this time, he was also with Texas A&M University at the USDA ARS Screwworm Research laboratory in support of the eradication program in the U.S. and Mexico. A new professional chapter began in Manhattan, Kansas when Alberto joined the Kansas State University Entomology Department in 1979. He attained Full Professor by 1987 and over the course of the next 29 years, built a successful and highly productive research career at K-State. Some of Alberto's key research accomplishments were in the biology of insects, ticks and mites of veterinary and medical importance and in the application of such knowledge to strategies for managing populations of these pests. His work is documented in hundreds of publications, some noteworthy accomplishments were: the development of a screwworm trap used in international eradication programs; key findings on the biology and ecology of stable flies in confined cattle operations; describing the process of protective calcified pupal formation in face flies; and numerous findings that helped with the management and control of cat fleas. In the personal realm, it was his generous, humorous, warm and engaging character for which he is most fondly remembered. Whether it was coaching his children's teams, serving as a mentor to countless graduate students (most frequently heralding from abroad), or pulling practical jokes on loved ones, all were pleased to be pulled into his gravitational force. One of his nieces in Panama did a wonderful job of summarizing his unique qualities: "He was the perfect amalgamation of an authentic and kind soul blessed with a brilliant mind and unparalleled scientific dedication aimed at advancing Entomological knowledge and serving as a mentor to the next generation of scholars."

Alberto's body was donated to further the research of Parkinson's. Alberto is survived by his mother Nicha, Bobara his wife of 53 years, children Andy (Terri), Bruce (Becky), and Maritza. Grandchildren: Lauren, Justin, Oliver, Isabella, and Miles. Siblings Pinta, Fernando, Nichita and many beloved nieces and nephews. To honor Alberto, please consider making a donation to the Kansas State University Foundation, Broce (Alberto & Bobara) Family Insect Zoo Excellence Fund, D54624. KSU Foundation, 1800 Kimball Ave., Suite 200, Manhattan, KS 66502.

A Celebration of Alberto's life will be held May 2, 2020, at 2:00 P.M. at College Avenue United Methodist Church. The address is 1609 College Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas.