In Memoriam: Janet Jeffers President of the Association, 1976



On December 18, 1976, Dr. Janet Jeffers passed away. At the time of her death, Jan was finishing her term as President of the Academy of Rehabilitative Audiology. To the many people who knew her, Jan was a driving force for the cause of rehabilitation of the hearing impaired and for the improvement of those who call themselves rehabilitationists.

Janet Jeffers will be honored by many people for many things. I have no wish to drag her entire career across this page because Jan was modest about her accomplishments. Instead, I would rather that we simply remember Jan in the role that best suited her. She was elected President of the Academy of Rehabilitative Audiology because of her leadership, her research prowess, her demand for academic excellence and her dedication to rehabilitation. At the time of her election, it was natural that she should receive this singular honor.

During her year as President-elect of the Academy, Jan became aware of a diagnosed terminal illness. In spite of this, she planned and carried out an outstanding summer Academy meeting in 1975. She began her year as President of the Academy under great hardship. As her health continued to fail, her desire to serve the Academy continued to build. Although seriously ill, she attended the Summer Academy meetings in 1976 and participated fully throughout the long hours of meetings and discussions. As her last professional activity, Jan chose to attend the convention of the American Speech and Hearing Association in Houston in the Fall of 1976. Actually, she did not go to Houston to attend the ASHA convention, but rather only to attend the meeting of the Academy. Although she was able to conduct one Executive Board meeting, her health was too fragile to allow her to attend the Academy meeting. Her dedication and her love for the field of rehabilitation and for the people who call themselves rehabilitators remained until the very end.

May the good Lord bless us by providing us with just some of her strength and dedication.

Roger Kasten, President