

Goodbye, Millie—Bidding Adieu to a Remarkable Materials Scientist

Remembering Mildred S. Dresselhaus

One cannot forget meeting Mildred S. Dresselhaus, Institute Professor Emerita of Physics and Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at MIT, and long-standing pioneer in the area of carbon materials, thermoelectrics, solid state science, and a host of other research efforts to be found in her 1700 published papers. This powerhouse of energy,



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excitement, and sheer focus was unstoppable, and in her talks, she was all about her commitment to working on the most important science possible. In person, her audiences would listen in what was almost rapture as she would describe her remarkable experiences, in frank and straightforward language, such as her work with former U.S. President Bill Clinton, as director of the Office of Science at the U.S. Department of Energy. Her commitment to the scientific community always extended far beyond her incredibly creative and remarkable scientific research—as examples, she was president of both the American Physical Society (APS) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Millie was seemingly unstoppable, and her love of doing great science was always palpable.

Some excellent detailed descriptions of Millie's life are now available,¹ but one unique piece recently released in 2017 is a General Electric-sponsored video highlighting Millie, entitled "What if Scientists Were Celebrities?"² Unfortunately, Millie will not see the day when scientists are valued broadly by society like star athletes or actors, but she showed us how to pursue science with passion and dignity by doing what she loved most.

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Notes

Views expressed in this editorial are those of the author and not necessarily the views of the ACS.

■ REFERENCES

- (1) <http://news.mit.edu/2017/institute-professor-emerita-mildred-dresselhaus-dies-86-0221#.WKxi9nE4FGs.twitter>.
- (2) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQ6_fOX7ITQ.

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