

OBITUARIES

LEONARD W. TRAGER, JR.

1927-1988

Leonard William Trager, Jr. was born April 10, 1927 in Concord, New Hampshire, where he graduated from Concord High School in 1947 and the University of New Hampshire in 1951.

Len embarked on a military career at an early age. Following an 18-month enlistment in the U.S. Navy as a hospital corpsman, he transferred to the inactive reserve in December 1946, completed his senior year of high school and went on to college. Upon graduation in June 1951, he accepted a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and entered active duty on July 2nd.

The Air Force Medical Service began developing its environmental surveillance and vector control capabilities in the early 1950s. Len's first assignment as a medical entomologist was to the 80th Epidemiological Flight, and he accompanied the unit to its location in Morocco in September 1952. Following an assignment at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, Len attended Oklahoma State University where he earned a Master of Science degree in medical entomology in 1958. His next assignment was with the 5th Epidemiological Flight at Yamato Air Station, Japan. As the medical entomologist he provided consultation to the U.S. Air Force base facilities in Japan and Okinawa and accomplished investigations on local vectors of disease. In 1961 he began a series of teaching appointments at the Air Force Medical Service School in Alabama which culminated in an assignment at the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine, Brooks AFB, Texas. Subsequent to his teaching assignments, Len accepted a 3-year appointment to Wiesbaden, Germany, where he served as Command Entomologist for U.S. Air Forces in Europe. The final assignment of Len's productive Air Force career was consulting entomologist with the Special Aerial Spray Flight.

After retiring from the Air Force in July 1979 with the grade of lieutenant colonel, Len accepted the position as Assistant Director of the Jefferson Parish Mosquito Control District in New Orleans. He became the Director after the first year and held that title until he retired in 1985.

Of all his achievements Len considered being awarded the Silver Beaver Award by the Boy Scouts of America the most satisfying. It was

a fitting reward for his 20 plus years of distinguished service to the Scout program as a scoutmaster and senior advisor. The fact that each of his four sons was a Scout, and that three of them earned the Eagle Scout Rank, was a special source of pride.

Everyone associated with Len respected his can-do attitude, his enthusiasm and his unending reservoir of energy. He was sincere, persistent and honest. No job was too big for him; he was always the first to volunteer and the last one to quit. He accepted new assignments as challenges to his professional ability and personal vigor. He displayed total dedication toward whatever he was doing, and he inspired his co-workers to produce at their highest possible levels.

Len passed away August 28, 1988 in Houston, Texas, and was buried with honors at a military funeral in Arlington National Cemetery in Ar-



Leonard W. Trager, Jr. (U.S. Air Force photograph, 1972)

lington, Virginia. Survivors include his wife, Jean Willoughby, of 40 years; five children, Leonard Trager III and Robert Trager of Phoenix, and Eric Trager, Diana Trager and Michael Trager, all of Houston; and five grandchildren.

Leonard Trager will be missed by all of us

who had the good fortune to know him or the opportunity to benefit from his example.

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