

ASSOCIATION NEWS

JOHN A. MULRENNAN, JR.

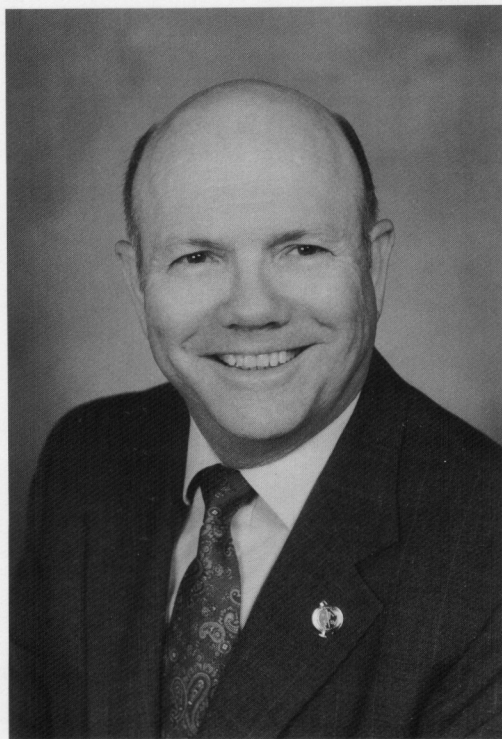
PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION, 1993-94

A Florida native, John Mulrennan, Jr., was born in Tallahassee on March 2, 1934. Before moving to Jacksonville, FL, in August of 1941, John lived in Austin, TX, and Pensacola, FL, where John, Sr., former president of the AMCA (1964-65), worked as an entomologist for the Rockefeller Foundation, the Texas State Board of Health, and the Florida State Board of Health in malaria control and research. From 1941 on, John has called Jacksonville home. John's father and mother are deceased. His older sister, Annie Mary, lives in Atlantic Beach, FL, and recently retired after a career with the IRS; younger brother, Pat, owns businesses in Rome and Atlanta, GA; and younger sister, Sandra, is a registered nurse in Springdale, AR.

As a youngster, John loved to hunt squirrels on the Mulrennan Homestead in Hillsborough County, FL, and fish anywhere he had a chance. But his first love was team sports, particularly football, baseball, and track, and he was a letterman in all three sports at Landon High School in Jacksonville where he graduated in 1952.

For four summers following high school graduation and in between college years, John worked for the Florida State Board of Health, Bureau of Entomology, identifying mosquitoes and other arthropods that were sent to the bureau laboratory. This was his first personal exposure to entomology and his interest grew to the point that he gave up his premed major at Tulane University and transferred to the University of Florida to study entomology. He received B.S. and M.S. degrees in entomology from the University of Florida, completing the M.S. degree in January 1959. He entered the U.S. Navy on February 4, 1959, attended Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI, and was commissioned an Ensign in the Medical Service Corps on July 24, 1959.

John was married to his wife, Mimi, on August 1, 1959, and their honeymoon was a trip to the Naval Air Station (NAS), Alameda, CA. John's first assignment was with the U.S. Navy Disease Vector Control Center. Although this first tour of duty was professionally rewarding, the time spent in California also provided the opportunity to establish lasting friendships with many of the mosquito abatement district (MAD) directors and personnel and many of the staff of the California Department of Health, Bureau of Vector Con-



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trol. John and Mimi also added two sons to their family while in California, John III and Michael.

From California it was on to Naples, Italy, and an assignment with the U.S. Navy Preventive Medicine Unit #7, where John served as the Navy entomologist for southern Europe and North Africa. This was an interesting and challenging assignment that included a variety of vector and pest problems in Italy, France, Spain, Morocco, Greece, and Libya. While John was stationed in Italy, son number three, Jeffrey, was born.

In 1966, John returned to the United States and entered graduate school at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK. He completed his Ph.D. in 1968 and headed for the Far East and a tour of duty in Da Nang, Viet Nam. Upon his return from Viet Nam, in 1969, John was stationed at the Disease Vector Ecology and Control Center (DVECC) at the NAS, Jacksonville, FL.

In 1973 he was assigned as Officer in Charge, at DVECC, NAS Alameda, and finished his Navy career in Washington, DC, where he headed the Environmental Quality Branch, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. Upon his retirement on June 30, 1979, he returned to Florida where he became Chief, Office of Entomology Services, Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services. In 1992, the program was transferred to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the bureau changed to Entomology and Pest Control. The Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control regulates mosquito control and commercial pest control in Florida.

John's bureau has seen tumultuous times because of budget cuts in the past 14 years, but it has survived, and the future is brighter now that some 1.6 million dollars is available from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Waste Tire Trust Fund, for mosquito control.

John and Mimi reside in Jacksonville. Their sons are all scattered to other cities and are doing well. They are the proud grandparents of a granddaughter.

When not involved with his job or AMCA business, John enjoys playing golf and making weekend retreats to Lake Panasoffkee in central Florida for fishing and relaxing.