

EDITOR'S CORNER

Mosquito specialists around the world were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of Dr. John N. Belkin, who passed away suddenly at his home in Los Angeles on April 25, 1980. It was particularly disturbing to those of us who attended the annual meeting of the American Mosquito Control Association in Salt Lake City just prior to his death. John was a special guest at that meeting and was presented the AMCA's highest award, The Medal of Honor, for his long and distinguished career in mosquito research, a career which contributed over 3,000 pages of scientific literature in systematic mosquito studies. It was a signal honor for me to represent the AMCA in making that presentation to John. He was very touched and pleased with the award. It is gratifying that he was able to receive this recognition representing the high respect and admiration of his colleagues prior to his death.

John was a unique and dedicated scientist, the acknowledged leader in his field. John's excellence as a scientist overshadowed the fact that he was also an outstanding teacher on both the undergraduate and graduate level. He taught a variety of courses with the main emphasis in zoology and entomology. His written contributions here included laboratory manuals in Vertebrate and Invertebrate Zoology, General and Medical Entomology, Keys to the Families of North American Insects and a 200 page key to Arthropods affecting man and warm-blooded animals.

It is with pleasure, mixed with sadness, that I dedicate this issue of *Mosquito Systematics* to the memory of Dr. John N. Belkin.

Included in this issue is John's obituary written by his close friend, Dr. Eugene Gerberg, a bibliography of John's publications, prepared by Sandra J. Heinemann and George K. Bryce and Collection Records of the Mosquitoes of Trinidad and Tobago by Heinemann, Aitken and Belkin. This latter paper probably represents the last regional paper of John's important and productive Mosquitoes of Middle America project which will be published in *Mosquito Systematics*, a journal which he helped to initiate and to which he contributed often.

I would like to call attention to the fact (noted in the obituary) that a John N. Belkin Memorial Fund has been established by the American Mosquito Control Association. Readers and subscribers are encouraged to send tax-deductible donations, earmarked for this fund, to the AMCA office in Fresno. This fund will be used to further mosquito systematics and will help to perpetuate and improve our journal.

Please note that the long awaited book "Taxonomists' Glossary of Mosquito Anatomy" by R. E. Harbach and K. L. Knight is now available. A brochure describing this indispensable book is enclosed in this issue of *Mosquito Systematics*. The deadline for ordering this book, at the advance price, has been extended by the publisher to September 1, 1980.