Robert T. Taylor
1932–1986

Dr. Robert Tieche Taylor, medical entomologist, and member of the American Mosquito Control Association, died a tragic, untimely death on January 9, 1986, following an automobile accident in Atlanta, Georgia. Burial was at the Fort Gibson National Cemetery in Oklahoma. He was a Director Scientist Officer in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service, and had retired from active duty, effective August 1, 1985. Robert Taylor is survived by two daughters, Suzanne and Kathryn Taylor, both of whom live in New York, NY, and by one brother, Clifford Taylor of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Robert Taylor was born June 29, 1932, in San Diego, California. He received his Bachelor of Science (1954), Master of Science (1957), and PhD (1960) degrees from Oklahoma State University. He was a student of Dr. D. E. Howell, with a PhD thesis entitled, "The effect of repellent treated surfaces on insect behavior." From 1954 to 1956, he was Preventive Medicine Officer, Entomologist, with the U.S. Army at Fort Stewart, Georgia. During his graduate studies he was Entomologist with the Tulsa City-County Health Department, during the summers of 1956, 1957 and 1959. He began his extensive international activities as Technical Advisor, in the Malaria Eradication Program of the Pan American Health Organization, assigned to Bogotá, Colombia during 1960 and 1961. From 1961 until 1963, Bob was Special Assistant for Entomology and Wood Preservation in a U.S. Navy Public Works Office in the Washington, D.C. area.

In 1963, Dr. Taylor joined the U.S. Agency for International Development, for a two-year Malaria Eradication Program assignment in Haiti. It was during that time that Bob and the former Ellen Clare McAulay of Muskogee, Oklahoma were married. Upon completion of the Haiti assignment, he was commissioned by the U.S. Public Health Service for duty with the Technical Development Laboratories of the Communicable Disease Center, in Savannah, Georgia, which became the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in 1970. This assignment dealt mainly with conducting and supervising investigations on the chemical control of mosquitoes, flies, and Triatoma bugs. These CDC laboratories were transferred to the Atlanta area in 1973, and Bob resumed the studies there. He also was responsible for consultative and advisory services in vector control to local, state, federal and international organizations, including assistance with disaster and epidemic situations. For his outstanding accomplishments in providing these services, Dr. Taylor was awarded the Public Health Service Commendation Medal in 1977.

In 1977, Bob Taylor was transferred to the CDC Central America Research Station in San Salvador, El Salvador. He had the responsibility there for conducting and supervising biology and control investigations on vectors of both malaria and onchocerciasis, the principal insect-borne diseases of Central America. In 1979, he returned to CDC/Atlanta to do research on resistance to insecticides, as well as testing of new compounds and formulations of chemicals for the control of arthropods and snails of public health importance. It was during these studies that Bob developed a successful technique for the rearing of blackflies in the laboratory. In conjunction with the World Health Organization, he expanded his earlier activities throughout the U.S.A. and other countries in developing pesticidal use for control of vector-borne diseases. He frequently taught courses in entomology and insect control at CDC, as well as elsewhere. He assisted the University of South Carolina at its new International Center for Public Health Research, located at the Wedge Plantation, near McClellanville, SC. Bob participated in the vector control training program and helped in the development of a course manual. He also assisted in the design of an insecticide formulations and application equipment laboratory. Bob continued this work at the Wedge Plantation after his USPHS retirement last summer.

During his career, Bob Taylor traveled to many countries, providing assistance to vector-borne disease activities. He had two-year assignments each to Colombia, Haiti and El Salvador. Additionally, he made numerous short term visits to Switzerland, England, Haiti, Dominican Republic, and the African countries of Ghana, Upper Volta, Mali, Ivory Coast, Senegal and Zaire. He was a member of several professional organi-
This highly competent, talented entomologist provided many valuable contributions to the field of vector-borne disease control throughout the world. He had a special knack in training and advising people in the science of controlling insects effectively and efficiently. This was made possible because of his solid training in entomology during his earlier years, followed by wide experience during his professional career. His cheerful, positive approach to problem solving, coupled with a good sense of humor, made Bob popular as an advisor and consultant wherever he went. His many contributions toward the elimination of debilitating, arthropod-borne diseases from vast populations of the peoples of the developing nations, and the U.S.A. as well, remain as a living memorial to Dr. Robert T. Taylor. He will be sadly missed by his family, his colleagues, and his friends around the world.

Donald R. Johnson, 1362 N. Decatur Road, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30306, and John D. Sexton, Malaria Branch, Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, GA 30333.

PUBLICATIONS BY ROBERT T. TAYLOR


