OBITUARIES

Dr. Lloyd Vernon Knutson (1934-2018)

Lloyd Vernon Knutson was born 4 July 1934 in Ottawa, Illinois, and died 10 January 2018 near Gaeta, Italy, after a brief illness. Son of Floyd V. Knutson and Jennie J. Valesano, he was preceded in death by both parents and his sister, Phylliss A. Baker, and is survived by his spouse, Edmea Demeglio Knutson, Gaeta; son, David R. Knutson, Poolesville, Maryland; daughter, Kari L. Kopp, Arden, North Carolina; brother, Gary B. Gaffney, Sandwich, Illinois; and seven grandchildren.

Dr. Knutson earned a B.A. from Macalester College (St. Paul, Minnesota) in 1957, an M.S. from Cornell University in 1959, and a Ph.D. from Cornell in 1963; his dissertation was on the biology of European snail-killing flies (Diptera: Sciomyzidae). He worked for Cornell University (1963–1967) as a research associate before joining the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), in 1968. As a research entomologist, he worked in the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (1968–1973) at the U.S. Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC, researching the systematics of flies important in biological control. He spent 1972 on leave from ARS, serving as resident ecologist for the Smithsonian. In 1973, he became Chief of the Systematic Entomology Laboratory and later Chairman of the Insect Identification and Beneficial Insect Introduction Institute in Beltsville, Maryland. There he continued his lifelong passion—studying snail-killing flies—while engaging in a wide range of other important activities. He spent 1983–1984 on leave from ARS, serving as program director of the Systematic Biology Program, National Science Foundation, Washington, DC.

Knutson was one of those rare individuals with a broad vision, much like that of a man he admired, Charles Valentine Riley, a person often recognized as the father of biological control of insects and who founded the insect collection at the Smithsonian. Knutson played a significant role in 1983, working with Victor John Yanneconne, Jr. (Executor, Cathryn Vedalia Riley Estate and Trustee, Cathryn Vedalia Riley Trust) to establish the Charles Valentine Riley Memorial Program in the USDA, and in the founding of the Charles Valentine Riley Memorial Foundation in 1985. The Foundation continues "to promote a broader and more complete understanding of agriculture as the most basic human endeavor and…to enhance agriculture through increased scientific knowledge," as Riley himself did.

Knutson's energy, enthusiasm, and expertise served him well in many roles: President of the Association of Registered Professional Entomologists (1985–1986), of the Eastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America (1978–1979), and of the Entomological Society of America (1988–1989); Vice President of the International Organization of Biological Control (1999–2000); Secretary of the Association of Systematics Collections (1982–1983); and Treasurer of the Society of Systematic Zoology (1971–1974). He also served as an editor for the Biological Society of Washington (1974–1978) and the Entomological Society of America (1972–1976). Knutson later was elected Honorary Member of the Entomological Society of America (1995) and of the Russian Entomological Society (1996).

In 1989, Knutson became the Director of the ARS Biological Control of Weeds Laboratory in Rome, Italy. In 1991, he was appointed as Director of the ARS European Biological Control Laboratory in Montpellier, France, overseeing construction of new and expanded facilities. Throughout his career, he traveled extensively on government business—as organizer, coordinator, and attendee at scores of international meetings. In his nearly 29-year career with the USDA, he visited Canada, Costa Rica, Brazil, England, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Greece, Russia, Israel, Egypt, Nigeria, Iran, Pakistan, India, and China.

Dr. Knutson became an important spokesman for systematics and the important role played by this area of science in maintaining biodiversity and in preserving germplasm. Three of his most often referenced works are *Biosystematics in Agriculture*; *Biotic Diversity and Germplasm Preservation: Global Imperatives*; and *Systematics: Relevance, Resources, Services, and Management: A Bibliography* (four editions published and held in 35 libraries worldwide).

In 1997, Knutson retired and moved to Italy, where he continued his research. He coordinated and mentored snail-killing fly researchers, as well as scientists in other disciplines. He continued for more than 21 years after his retirement to publish original research papers and reviews and to attend international meetings, often

traveling to Washington, DC, to work at the Smithsonian, and to other sites throughout the world to work with collaborators. He wrote, co-authored, edited, or co-edited more than 232 publications.

Perhaps Knutson's scientific contributions to systematic entomology can best be described by the following: in *The Quarterly Review of Biology*, Luciane Marinoni (Biological Sciences, Universite, Federal do Paraná, Curitiba, Brazil) commented on *Biology of Snail-Killing Sciomyzidae Flies*, published in 2011 by Cambridge University Press, "This book is a great contribution and the most complete and comprehensive analysis of the group. Both authors (Lloyd Vernon Knutson and Jean-Claude Vala) are the world specialists on Sciomyzidae and share with the readers more than 40 years of studies and experience. Without any doubt, this work is the best example of 'how to do' the best for the spread of knowledge on biodiversity."

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Dr. James H. Oliver, Jr. (1931–2018)

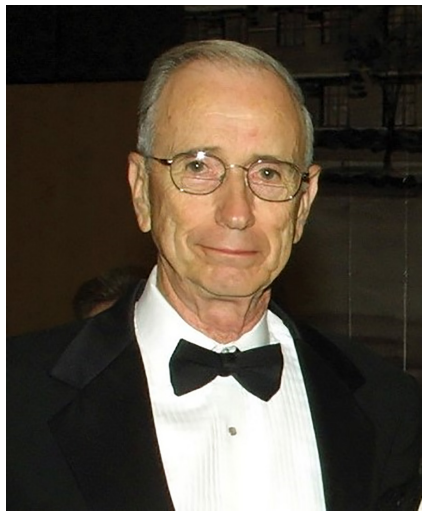
With the passing of James (Jim) Oliver on 18 July 2018, the Entomological Society of America (ESA) lost a former President (1989–1990), and the world lost a pioneer in the study of tick physiology, tick-borne diseases, and acarine cytogenetics and biology. His eventful life and times were recently highlighted in the "Legends" column in *American Entomologist* by Marlin Rice (2016, Vol. 62, pp. 206–213). Jim was the first Callaway Professor in Georgia, USA, and was Fuller E. Callaway Professor of Biology at Georgia Southern University (GSU) from 1969 until 2018, representing nearly 50 years of service in this role.

Jim was born on 10 March 1931 in Augusta, Georgia, but his boyhood was spent in and around Waynesboro, Georgia, where his father farmed 2,000 acres. As a youngster, Jim loved being in the woods and hunting in the fields. Later, he decided to enroll at the University of Georgia. When he arrived at the Athens campus, he was mostly into boxing, and not so much into academics. Jim won the Georgia state boxing championship Golden Gloves award in 1950. Fortunately, Jim decided not to major in boxing, but opted to leave the University of Georgia and continue his education at Georgia Teachers College (now, GSU) in Statesboro because it was only 50 miles away from his boyhood home. It was not until his sophomore year that Jim realized he needed to invest more time in his academic training. Thereafter, he made the dean's list until his graduation and earned a B.S. in Biology (1952) from Georgia Teachers College.

From that point on, Jim never looked back from an academic perspective. He was accepted into graduate school at Florida State University in 1952. His major professor, Robert (Bob) Short, interested him in parasitology and the study of blood flukes. Jim completed his thesis on the life cycle of a parasitic worm and earned an M.S. in Zoology (1954) from Florida State University. This was during the Korean War, and after graduation, with his M.S. degree in hand, Jim was drafted, sent to boot camp, and posted to the Army Chemical Corps at Fort (then Camp) Detrick, Maryland. At that time, Fort Detrick was a biological warfare facility, and studying ticks, mosquitoes, and the disease agents they transmit greatly intrigued Jim.

Jim's army duty (1954–1956) was important to him for another reason. It was in Frederick, Maryland, that Jim met the love of his life, Sue Schuster. She was an undergraduate at Hood College, just a few miles from Fort Detrick. Jim fell in love with Sue and was ready to marry, but Sue's family would not allow her to marry until after she graduated. Jim, therefore, took medical entomology courses at nearby Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore for a year. When Sue graduated, they married and moved to the University of Kansas where Jim studied with Professor Joe Camin. Jim's doctoral research was on the life history of mites associated with earthworms.

After Jim graduated with a Ph.D. in



Entomology from Kansas (1962), Jim and Sue moved to Jim's first academic position as assistant professor at the University of California–Berkeley. However, Jim was awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) post-doctoral Fellowship in Cytogenetics to work at Melbourne University, Australia (1962–1964), which he completed before he began his first year of teaching and research at Berkeley. Once he was back on the Berkeley campus, Jim's work progressed well. Nevertheless, Jim and Sue decided to leave Berkeley in 1968 when Jim accepted a position in his home state at the University of Georgia. Jim was one of three professors from Berkeley hired by the University of Georgia, through an NSF program, to enhance academics there.

John O. Eidson, then Dean of the Franklin School of Arts & Sciences at the University of Georgia, interviewed Jim for the job there, and Jim served as associate professor in the Department of Entomology from 1968–1969. However, the University System of Georgia Chancellor, George L. Simpson, selected Dr. Eidson to be the next president of Georgia Southern College (now GSU) in 1968. During the ensuing year, Jim and President Eidson negotiated a Callaway Professorship at Georgia Southern College, and Jim was appointed the first Callaway Professor in the state in 1969. Dr. Eidson selected Jim for this illustrious position because Jim "was a graduate of Georgia Southern and would be a role model for students in science and research there, as a local student born and raised in Georgia who became a success."

Over the course of his career (1952–2018), Jim supervised the research of 30 M.S. students, nine Ph.D. students, and 30 postdoctoral students from 11 countries.