

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ELMER H. MARTH

Professor Emeritus Elmer H. Marth, age 78, died on June 19, 2006 at the University of Wisconsin Hospital of leukemia. He was born on a dairy farm near Jackson, Wisconsin on September 11, 1927. Elmer was a third-generation descendant of Pomeranian “Old Lutheran” immigrants who came to the Washington County, Territory of Wisconsin in 1843 and 1846, seeking religious freedom.

Elmer attended West Bend High School and graduated in 1944. He enrolled at UW-Madison and earned his B.S. (1950), M.S. (1952), and Ph. D. (1954) degrees, all in bacteriology with an emphasis on food/dairy bacteriology. Research he completed for the Ph.D. degree provided the scientific basis for regulatory approval of the then new method—pipeline milker and bulk milk cooling tank—for producing milk on the farm, a method, with some modifications, that is still used today.

Dr. Marth was appointed as a project associate (1954-1955) and then instructor (1955-1957) in bacteriology. On August 10, 1957, at Calvary Lutheran Chapel in Madison, he married Phyllis E. Menge, a medical technician and native of Fall Creek, Wisconsin. A few weeks later, the newlyweds moved to Deerfield, Illinois since Elmer had accepted a position with the research and development division of Kraft Foods in nearby Glenview, Illinois.

It was in 1966 that Elmer left Kraft Foods and returned to UW-Madison as associate professor of food science with joint appointments in bacteriology and food microbiology and toxicology (Food Research Institute). At UW-Madison, Dr. Marth was promoted to professor in 1971 and upon retirement in 1990, he was named emeritus professor. Dr. Marth served as editor of the *Journal of Food Protection* from 1967 to 1987. It was largely through his efforts and leadership that the journal became the leading medium, worldwide, for publication of papers dealing with issues of food safety.

At UW-Madison, Marth taught courses in food sanitation, food fermentations, farm bacteriology, and writing of scientific reports. He frequently spoke in a Medical School extension program to update dietitians and other food service personnel in nearly all Wisconsin hospitals. When major outbreaks of foodborne illness occurred in the United States, Marth spent countless hours on the telephone providing sound information to concerned persons in industry and to representatives of the media.

Dr. Marth organized and maintained a major research program in food microbiology, including studies on food spoilage, food fermentations, and foodborne diseases. Foodborne pathogens that were studied include *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Salmonella*, enteropathogenic *Escherichia coli*, and *Listeria monocytogenes*. Marth’s research program also included studies on the mold toxins aflatoxin, the milk aflatoxin, patulin and rubratoxin. Dr. Marth was the major professor for 32 students who received the M.S. degree and also for 32 students who earned the Ph. D. degree.

During his career, Marth was the author, co-author, editor or co-editor of over 660 scientific publications. His research papers and review papers appeared in about 50 domestic and foreign scientific journals.

Dr. Marth served on numerous committees of the American Dairy Science Association (ADSA), International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), American Society for Microbiology (ASM), Wisconsin Association for Food Protection (WAFP), College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and the Department of Food Science. From 1968 to 1985 he was a member (chairman, 1972-1978) of the technical committee of the American Public Health Association that supervised preparation of the 13th, 14th (Marth was editor), and 15th editions of “Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products.”

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The excellence of Dr. Marth's research and teaching was recognized by his peers in professional and industrial organizations. Thus he was honored by ADSA (Pfizer, Dairy Research Foundation, Borden, and Kraft Teaching awards; also named fellow), IAFP (educator, citation, honorary life member, Excellence as Journal Editor, and NFPA Food Safety awards; also named fellow) and IFT (Nicholas Appert and Babcock-Hart awards; also named fellow). Other awards came from the World Health Organization (fellowship), American Public Health Association (meritorious service), American Cultured Dairy Products Association (Nordica), WAFP (sanitarian-of-the-year), WLA (laboratorian-of-the-year), National Confectioners Association (meritorious service), American Agricultural Economics Association (Quality of Communication), L'Association Internationale Nicolas Appert (honorary member), ISI Thomson (named highly cited researcher, worldwide, in the agricultural sciences), and the National Cheese Institute (laureate).

Dr. Marth was preceded in death by his parents, an infant brother, and an infant son. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis.

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