

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS CHARLES F. KOVAL

Charles F. (Chuck) Koval, professor emeritus of entomology, passed away in Madison, Wisconsin, on August 3, 2009, after a lengthy and heroic battle with multiple myeloma. Professor Koval grew up on the family farm in northern Wisconsin. He received his bachelor of arts degree from Northland College in 1960 and his MS and PhD degrees from the Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, in 1963 and 1966, respectively. He joined the faculty of the Department of Entomology in 1966 with the positions of assistant professor and extension entomologist. He was promoted to the rank of full professor in 1973.

During his tenure in the Department of Entomology, Professor Koval had research and cooperative extension responsibilities for pest management of fruit and vegetable crops as well as landscape plants, turfgrass, and greenhouse crops. He also taught Principles of Economic Entomology, a practical pest management course taken by numerous agronomy, horticulture, and turf management undergraduates; it routinely had enrollments of over 100 students. During the period 1979-1983, Dr. Koval was director of Agricultural Research Stations for the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. In 1983 he was appointed dean and associate director of the Cooperative Extension Service, University of Wisconsin-Extension, a position he held until 1987. At that time he returned to the Department of Entomology and served as chair in 1988-1989. Professor Koval retired in 1995.

By way of both his research and extension programs Professor Koval made numerous lasting contributions to Wisconsin's agriculture and horticulture industries. Along with entomology colleague Professor R. Keith Chapman, Dr. Koval initiated an annual survey throughout the southeastern United States to determine spring migration patterns of aster leafhopper, the vector of aster yellows, a major disease of numerous vegetable crops. Over 40 years later these surveys still continue, providing valuable information to both researchers and the vegetable industry regarding the management of aster leafhopper and the disease that it vectors. Professor Koval was also a co-organizer of the Wisconsin Landscape Federation, which brought together six major Wisconsin horticultural industries. He was also active with the Wisconsin Arborist Association, which awarded him Honorary Membership for his service. In 1978 Professor Koval initiated the Insect Diagnostic Laboratory housed within the Department of Entomology. The objective of the diagnostic lab was to provide reliable and timely diagnoses of insect problems for county extension agents, crop consultants, farmers, horticulturists, and the general public during the busy growing season when extension faculty were frequently on the road. The lab has now operated continually for well over 30 years and has become the recognized face of the department to the citizens of the state; it is ranked annually by county extension faculty as one of the most important resources provided by the university.

Professor Koval was a large man with a commanding voice and a gift for oratory. He was also a consummate gentleman with an engaging personality. His undergraduate students, his extension clientele, and his entomology colleagues all had a profound respect for his professionalism.

Chuck's service to his university and fellow humans did not stop at retirement. He and his wife, Pat, have given a generous endowment to the entomology department's Insect Ambassadors, a group of undergraduate and graduate students who provide entertaining and informative programs about insects to area schools and other youth groups. After being diagnosed with multiple myeloma, he addressed the illness with the same passion and dedication as he did insect pest problems during his professional career. He made himself an expert on the disease and helped established patient support groups here in Wisconsin and elsewhere. He traveled widely to cancer conferences where he spoke and gave poster presentations advocating for patient support.

Professor Chuck Koval was a valued colleague and an outstanding citizen. He is missed by many within the university as well as the larger outside community.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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