Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison on the Death of Professor Emeritus John A. Tataronis

John A. Tataronis, Emeritus Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, died on January 25, 2014 in Santa Fe, New Mexico at the age of 72. He was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts and received his BS degree in Electrical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1963 and his MS (1964) and Ph.D. (1968) in plasma physics from Stanford University. His career as a researcher brought him around the world. His places of employment included the Commissariat à l'énergie atomique in France, from 1968 to 1972, the Max Planck Institut für Plasmaphysik in Garching, Germany, from 1972 to 1980 and the Courant Institute of Mathematical Science at NYU from 1975 to 1980. He joined UW-Madison as Associate Professor in 1980 and was promoted to Professor in 1985. He became Professor Emeritus in 2001.

He was fluent in both German and French. His work concentrated on nuclear fusion and nonlinear science.

"John Tataronis was a respected and very valuable colleague. His work on the continuous spectrum of ideal magnetohydrodynamics led to a resolution of a longstanding puzzle: namely, why MHD waves damp in inhomogeneous plasmas. This resolution, following elegant mathematical analysis and verified experimentally, has led to a potential mechanism for heating fusion plasmas. He extended this analysis to many other remarkable effects of waves in laboratory and celestial plasmas. We extend our deepest sympathy to John's family." Michael Kaufmann, Max Planck Institut für Plasma Physik,Josef Neuhäuser, Max Planck Institut für Plasma Physik,William Grossmann, Alumnus Max Planck Institut für Plasma Physik.

"He made significant advances in another difficult problem late in his scientific life: the existence or non-existence of equilibrium solutions of the equations of ideal magnetohydrodynamics in non-symmetric geometry. This is an important and relevant problem for magnetic-fusion energy." Harold Weitzner, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University.

Prof. Tataronis had a unique quality—nearly infinite patience. This endeared him to many of his students and colleagues. He would not rest until he was certain that you completely understood what he was describing. (He also would spend an equally long time walking with you in a city to make sure that you and he had picked the best restaurant in which to have dinner!)

He finished his career as Professor at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. John won several teaching awards and published many articles in his field, and has several patents. He was responsible for setting up two key courses—Linear Waves and Nonlinear Waves that are still being taught today. He retired to Santa Fe in 2001, and served as a consultant at Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico John enjoyed traveling with his wife, Klaudia, during his retirement, traveling to Germany, Greece, Hawaii, and the American Southwest.

In addition to his wife, John is survived by his brother, Richard Tataronis and his wife, Susan, of Berlin, Massachusetts, along with their children, Julia Tataronis and Andrew Tataronis, and several cousins.

Respectfully submitted by the Memorial Resolution Committee
Professor J. Leon Shohet, *Chair*
Professor David Anderson
Professor W.N.G. (Nick) Hitchon
Dr. Joseph Talmadge