B. Gordon Blaylock — In Memoriam

NCRP Consociate Member, B. Gordon Blaylock, born August 31, 1931, died November 24, 2017 at the age of 86.

After graduating with an MS in zoology/genetics followed by a PhD in zoology/radiation biology from the University of Tennessee, Dr. Blaylock joined Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), where he spent over 30 y as an international expert on the effects of chronic radiation on aquatic life. His other areas of research and expertise included the genetic effects of radiation, the impact of nuclear power plants on the environment, and the effects of mercury and other heavy metals.

Having published over 100 journal and scientific articles, Dr. Blaylock served as a member of the Council from 1990 to 2002. During his tenure he was Co-Chair of the Scientific Committee that published NCRP Report No. 109 on Effects of Ionizing Radiation on Aquatic Organisms (1991) and a member of the committees responsible for NCRP Reports No. 76, Radiological Assessment: Predicting the Transport, Bioaccumulation, and Uptake by Man of Radionuclides Released to the Environment (1984), and No. 123, Screening Models for Releases of Radionuclides to Atmosphere, Surface Water, and Ground (1996).

He also served on many committees of the International Atomic Energy Agency. After ORNL, Dr. Blaylock spent many years as a Senior Scientist and Director for SENES Oak Ridge, now known as the Oak Ridge Center for Risk Analysis. He also was an Adjunct Professor in science at the University of Tennessee for over 30 y.

In addition to science and family, he loved the outdoors, in particular rivers and streams, and was an excellent canoeer and angler. He was proud of his military service as a lieutenant in the navy where he served honorably on the destroyer, USS Damato, after his graduation from Tennessee Technological University with a degree in Biology. Preceded in death by his wife of over 50 y, Mary Jane Blaylock, and his oldest son, Mark L. Blaylock, he is survived by two sons and five grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 6900 Nubbin Ridge Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee, 37919, where Dr. Blaylock was a long-time member.