



November 10, 2017

Charles B. Meinhold, Third NCRP President — In Memoriam

The National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) is saddened to announce that Charles B. Meinhold died on November 3, 2017 at 83 years of age.

Charlie, as he was known by all, became a member of the NCRP in 1978 and the third of only five presidents in 1991, following Lauriston S. Taylor and Warren K. Sinclair and preceding Thomas S. Tenforde and John D. Boice, Jr. Upon his retirement from the NCRP in 2002 he was elected President Emeritus and was the 27th Lauriston S. Taylor Lecturer with a presentation on “The Evolution of Radiation Protection—from Erythema to Genetic Risks to Risks of Cancer to ...?”



He was a member of the NCRP Board of Directors from 1980 to 2002; served on the Nominating Committee from 1987 to 1990; and served on numerous annual meeting programs as either a chair or member of the program committee or as a speaker. Charlie chaired both Scientific Committee 1 on Basic Radiation Protection Criteria and SC 46 on Operational Radiation Safety; and was a member of several committees including SC 1-10 (Review of Cohen’s Radon Research Methods), SC 1-11 (Radiation Protection and Measurement for Neutron Surveillance Scanners), SC 63-3 (Emergency Exposure Criteria for Specialized Categories of Individuals), and SC 80-1 (Hot Particles on the Skin).

Mr. Meinhold was a member of the Main Commission of the International Commission on Radiation Protection (ICRP) from 1978 to 2002; ICRP Vice Chairman from 1993 to 1997; and Chairman of both Committee 2 on Secondary Standards (1985 to 1992) and Committee 3 on Protection in Medicine (1978 to 1985). Charles Meinhold completed his term as President of the International Radiation Protection Association in 1996 during the International Meeting in Vienna, Austria. He served, after serving as Vice President from 1988 to 1992. He was a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation from 1996 to 2009.

Charles Meinhold began his career in Health Physics at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) in Upton, New York in 1957. He received his BS in Physics from Providence College in 1956 and completed a year of graduate work at The University of Rochester on an U.S. Atomic Energy Commission Fellowship. In 1972 he became Senior Health Physicist and Division Head of the Safety and Environmental Division of BNL with responsibilities for health physics, industrial hygiene, occupational safety, fire protection and security.

Throughout his career Mr. Meinhold was active in virtually all aspects of radiation protection and safety, not only at BNL but as a mentor or consultant to Con Ed Indian Point #2 station, Boston Ed Pilgrim Station, L.I. Shoreham Nuclear Station, Rocky Flats, and Los Alamos National Laboratories.

Mr. Meinhold was President of the Health Physics Society from 1981 to 1982 and Treasurer from 1975 to 1977 and became a Fellow in 1984. He was the Failla Memorial Lecturer, Greater New York Chapter Health Physics Society in 1979; and the R.S. Landauer Memorial Lecturer in 1992. Charlie was an Honorary Professor of both the China Institute of Atomic Energy and the China Institute for Radiation Protection and a recipient of the Marie Sklodowska Curie Medal from the Marie Sklodowska Curie Society, Warsaw, Poland.

Born Charles Boyd Meinhold in Boston, Massachusetts on November 1, 1934, Charlie leaves behind his wife, Anne, five children (three girls and two boys), and several grandchildren. Since retirement Charles has been very active in the work of the St. Vincent Society.

Charlie's daughter, Cathy, said it best:

"I'm sad to say that my dad, Charlie Meinhold, passed away this afternoon. For the past few years he battled COPD [Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease] and other conditions. But the 80 years before that were pretty darn good. He was a leading expert in the area of Health Physics for many years, travelled all over the world sharing his knowledge and was a driving force at BNL. He was happily married for 61 years. He had 5 crazy kids, three kids-in-law and twelve grandchildren that he was very proud of and a new grandson-in-law. He was a man of both Faith and Science and would gladly explain how the two could coexist. He sailed many miles, drank many drinks, enjoyed many meals and laughed many laughs. More smiles than sadness, more good than bad. We will miss him but it was his time to fly."

Charlie will be greatly missed by his family and his many friends and colleagues.