Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
On the Death of Professor Emeritus Dale Norris

Dale Melvin Norris, Jr., was born in a farm house in Page County, Iowa, on Aug. 19, 1930, the first of four children born to Dale M. Norris Sr. and Opal Loretta (Klepinger) Norris. He died at the age of 86 on Dec. 2, 2016.

Dale received three degrees (B.S., M.S. and Ph.D.) from Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. He was an Assistant Professor at the University of Florida, Gainesville, from 1956-1957. He joined the University of Wisconsin-Madison Entomology Department as an Assistant Professor in 1958. He remained Professor Emeritus here until his death.

Dale was a co-founder, and lifetime member, of the International Society of Chemical Ecology. He received the Entomological Society of America’s most prestigious research honor, the Founders’ Lecturer. His work on the national use of DDT to control beetle vectors of the Dutch Elm Disease fungus preceded Rachel Carson's book "Silent Spring", in publically calling for a ban on this insecticide. The American Elm Research Institute was created initially to provide financial support for Dr. Norris' pioneering development of pesticides for injection into elms and other trees. The basic technology and chemicals which he developed during the late 1950's and early 1960's allowed a revolution in the tree care profession. This laid the foundation for current efforts to control another invasive pest threatening a native species with extirpation, Emerald Ash Borer. He was recognized for his leadership in studies of: Oak Wilt, Dutch Elm Disease, Vascular Wilt of Cacao Trees, Rapid Decline of Macadamia Trees, and Wilt of Coffee and Tea Trees.

Dr. Norris held several patents based on his research findings. As part of their Centennial Celebration in 1980 (1880-1980), Iowa State University chose Professor Norris as their most eminent alumnus physiologist. Washington State University also named Dr. Norris to a Distinguished Lectureship during their Centennial Celebration, 1988-1990. The State of Kentucky named Dale a "Kentucky Colonel" in recognition of his international research contributions. Dozens of other states, countries, academic institutions, and research institutes throughout the world invited Dr. Norris to present special consultations and/or distinguished lectures. Professor Norris had a great tendency to leave favorable, quite indelible, impressions on the students he mentored. His mentoring yielded, directly or indirectly, a network of exceptional researchers, teachers, and entrepreneurs interwoven throughout more than 80 countries.