



March 3, 2020

Michael T. Ryan, August 21, 1952 – February 22, 2020 In Memoriam



Michael T. Ryan passed away on Saturday, February 22, 2020. He was an independent consultant in radiological sciences and health physics, and an Adjunct Faculty member at Vanderbilt University in the Department of Environmental Engineering and the Texas A&M University in the Department of Nuclear Engineering. He earned his BS in radiological health physics from Lowell Technological Institute in 1974. In 1976, he earned an MS in radiological sciences and protection from the University of Massachusetts Lowell under a U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration Scholarship. Dr. Ryan received the PhD in 1982 from the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he was inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Alumni. He is a recipient of the Francis Cabot Lowell Distinguished Alumni for Arts and Sciences Award from the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Dr. Ryan was first elected to the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) in 1992 and became a Distinguished Emeritus Member in 2010. During his tenure, he served on NCRP's Board of Directors from 1999 to 2002, the Budget and Finance Committee from 1999 to 2001, was Scientific Vice President for Radioactive and Mixed Waste Management, and a member of Scientific Committee 64-7. He was also a member of the 2000 and 2005 Annual Meeting Program Committees and a speaker at several other NCRP meetings. Dr. Ryan was certified in the comprehensive practice of health physics by the American Board of Health Physics. In addition to his adjunct appointment at Texas A&M University, Dr. Ryan taught radiation protection courses on the undergraduate and graduate level at the University of South Carolina and the College of Charleston. Dr. Ryan authored and coauthored many refereed articles and publications in the areas of environmental radiation assessment, radiation dosimetry, and regulatory compliance for radioactive materials.

Dr. Ryan was Editor In Chief of *Health Physics* from 2000 to 2017. In 1989, he received the Health Physics Society (HPS) Elda E. Anderson Award. He held numerous offices in HPS, including President of the Environmental Section and the Savannah River Chapter and became a HPS Fellow in 2005. Dr. Ryan served on the Technical Advisory Radiation Control Council for the State of South Carolina for 19 y.

Dr. Ryan consulted with a number of national corporations and government agencies. This work generally involved radioactive waste management, radiological health and regulatory compliance for the workplace, and environmental issues. He served for several years on the independent review panel for decommissioning work at Brookhaven National Laboratory. Dr. Ryan also served on several committees of the National Academy of Sciences producing reports regarding radioactive waste management topics and as Chairman for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste and Materials.

Dr. Ryan served as Vice President of Barnwell Operations for Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc., and had overall responsibility for operation of the low-level radioactive waste disposal and service facilities in Barnwell, South Carolina. Before joining Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc., as Director of the Environmental and Dosimetry Laboratory in 1983, Dr. Ryan spent 7 y in environmental health physics at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Dr. Ryan enjoyed travel, golf, and most of all, spending time with friends and family. He leaves his wife of 43 years, Mary Gene; a brother, Edward; and a multitude of extended family, friends and colleagues. Those who knew him considered him to be one of the smartest people they'd ever met, as well as one of the most passionate. He also had a wicked sense of humor that will be long remembered.