



**United States Department of Agriculture**

Research, Education, and Economics  
Agricultural Research Service

January 3, 2012

To: Administrator's Council and South Atlantic Area

From: Dr. Deborah Brennan, Director South Atlantic

Subject: The Death of Mr. Robert (Bob) Heath

I am deeply saddened to report that Mr. Robert (Bob) Heath passed away on December 29, 2011. In his 43-years of service with ARS, he has served as Research Leader/Supervisory Research Chemist as well as Location Coordinator at the Subtropical Horticultural Research Station, Miami, FL (1999-2011), Research Chemist at the Center for Medical, Agricultural, and Veterinary Entomology, Gainesville, FL (1978-1999) and in support staff positions at Beltsville, MD and Gainesville, FL (1968-1978).

Mr. Heath was an internationally recognized scientist with specialization in the development and applications of insect semiochemicals and other attractants for the control of agricultural insect pests. He developed considerable expertise in the areas of chemical separation science, microanalytical techniques, formulations of semiochemicals, and identification of novel pheromones. The international recognition and pioneering status of Mr. Heath's research is evidenced by his 210 refereed publications and book chapters. He authored or co-authored three symposia chapters, nine book chapters, nine patents recorded and two pending. Twenty-two of his publications were the result of collaborative efforts with scientists from several countries world-wide. Additionally, Mr. Heath contributed numerous invited presentations at local, national scientific, regulatory and/or Action agencies, such as APHIS International Services and MOSCAMED (U.S.-Mexico, Central America), international Organizations, such as, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as well as grower meetings. Mr. Heath received several research grants and two CRADA funding, totaling approximately \$3.6M awarded by regulatory and action agencies, industry, international



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organizations and grower groups, which demonstrates the importance and impact of the research conducted by Mr. Heath. Eleven patents were issued to Mr. Heath covering new insect attractants and formulation systems.

In his capacity as a technical advisor to IAEA Regional Research Projects, Mr. Heath served as the chief technical advisor to scientists located in 14 different countries on the use of his new attractant for detecting and monitoring Mediterranean fruit flies. Involvement by Mr. Heath in the transfer of this technology resulted in several awards, press releases and numerous requests from agriculture administrators, scientists and industry leaders at the local, national and international level.

Mr. Heath is survived by his wife, Martha, and his two daughters, Beth and Kathy. Cards and Condolences can be sent to the home of Mrs. Heath at: 7860 SW 160th Street, Palmetto Bay, FL 33157-3758.



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