



John Shearer Irwin

(1945–2016)

John S. Irwin, A&WMA member and 30-year career research meteorologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (NOAA-EPA), has passed away after a 13-year battle with mantle cell lymphoma.

Irwin served in the U.S. Air Force for four years, received a bachelor's degree in physics from the University of Maryland, and then a master's degree in meteorology from North Carolina State University in 1974.

During his tenure with NOAA-EPA, Irwin was a vital participant in NOAA's partnership with EPA. He helped improve our understanding of the processes relating to the transport and dispersion of pollutants released into the atmosphere. He published numerous research papers on atmospheric modeling, contributing toward the evaluation and application of dispersion models for supporting regulatory policies. Irwin served as chair of the subcommittee on meteorology of ASTM International and collaborated with many national and European scientists on atmospheric modeling research.

Irwin reviewed many manuscripts for the *Journal of the Air & Waste Management Association (JA&WMA)* and received JA&WMA's Outstanding Reviewer Award. His other interests included duplicate bridge, shag dancing, and studying astronomy with the Raleigh Astronomy Club. He had many friends who enjoyed his wit and humor. He never said an unkind word about anyone and saw only the best in people. In recognition of his lifetime commitment to the advancement of science and its application to environmental policy-making, a "John S. Irwin Scientific Excellence Award" will be given out each year to an outstanding meteorology student at North Carolina State University by the Central North Carolina Chapter of the American Meteorological Society.

—Respectfully submitted by S.T. Rao, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor, Department of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences North Carolina State University, and Editor-in-Chief, Journal of the Air & Waste Management Association