In Memory of A&WMA Member **Melvin W. First, Sc.D., P.E.**

Dr. Melvin W. First, P.E., died on June 13, 2011, at age 96, after a short illness. A member of the Association for 57 years, Dr. First was a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University, and Professor of Environmental Health Engineering, Emeritus, at Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH). Although he retired officially from HSPH in 1984, he continued to work productively at Harvard until his death.

Dr. First liked to comment that although becoming an engineer at MIT and then a biologist at Harvard was a familiar path, he did the opposite. His first degree was an MIT biology degree; then he studied engineering at Harvard. After earning his doctorate from Harvard in the field of sanitary engineering in 1950, he became a research associate in what was then called the Department of Industrial Hygiene (now the U.S. Department of Environmental Health). He moved up through the ranks over the next several years, ultimately becoming a Professor of Environmental Health Engineering in 1971. He became an emeritus faculty member in 1985.

Dr. First's career at HSPH was remarkable for the quality and innovation of his work. He led the HSPH program in air cleaning for nearly four decades, and was a pioneer in the field of air filtration and air pollution control. He was recognized internationally for his research and field applications of filter theory, operation, and maintenance, and of nuclear air cleaning systems. Dr. First conducted nuclear air cleaning research since 1950. He was chairman of the biennial Department of Energy/Nuclear Regulatory Commission Air Cleaning Conferences for three decades. For the past two decades, he was heavily involved with international air disinfection research aimed at controlling pathogens such as drug-resistant tuberculosis and influenza, and was co-founder of a unique continuing education summer course at HSPH to train engineers and architects from around the world in these methods.

Dr. First was the recipient of many awards and honors, including A&WMA’s Lyman A. Rippeton Award in 1987, and the Cummings Memorial Award from the American Industrial Hygiene Association. In addition to serving as a member of the Association’s Board of Directors from 1982 to 1985, he served on numerous professional advisory board and committees, including the Chemical Weapons Destruction and Disposal Advisory Committee of the U.S. Army Command; the National Academy of Sciences Submarine Air Quality Committee; and as a consultant to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

He is survived by his sons, Mike and Bill, his daughter-in-law, Kiar, his grandchildren, Josh, Travis, Andrea, and Matt, and six great-grandchildren.

In Memory of A&WMA Member **William L. Johnson, P.E.**

William L. “Bill” Johnson, P.E., died on February 7, 2011, at age 64, of an apparent heart attack. Born at Kingsport, TN, he attended Lynn View High School, East Tennessee State University, and University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He earned degrees in both chemistry and chemical engineering. At the time of his passing, he resided in Durham, NC, where he had worked for almost four decades as a professional engineer for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He was recognized as a national expert in volatile organic compound policy in the ozone air quality management program.

His family and friends will remember Johnson for his intellect, his understated wit, and his gentle spirit. He was an avid reader, a published writer, and a constant student of all things interesting. Hobbies included art, music, and swing dancing. Church activities included active participation at the Chapel of the Cross, in Chapel Hill, NC. Over the course of his career, he was involved in several professional and social organizations, including A&WMA.