In Memory of Dr. Kenneth D. Kerri

An incredibly influential person in the academic community and the water industry, Dr. Ken Kerri passed away on the morning of December 15, 2014. Dr. Kerri was recently named an Honorary Member of AWWA for his lifetime achievement, with countless contributions over the course of the last 50 years.

In 1972, Dr. Kerri was a pioneer in establishing the Office of Water Programs at California State University, Sacramento. This is widely regarded as a leading national training program for operators and managers of drinking water or wastewater plants. For nearly three decades the water industry has been utilizing operator training programs developed by Dr. Kerri. Over one million operator and manager training manuals have been sold throughout the world.

The operator training programs are recognized by every operator certification agency in the United States and in most of the Canadian Provinces. The training manuals have been adopted as textbooks in over 300 colleges and universities throughout the world.

Among his many other endeavors Dr. Kerri was immensely involved in AWWA and the California-Nevada Section of AWWA. Ken Kerri was a member of the Water Treatment Committee under the Standards Council, and the Top Ops Contest Subcommittee, under the Technical and Education Council. Dr. Kerri was also a member of the Water Distribution and Water Treatment O&M committees, served as Small Water System Committee Chair from 1988-1993; Education Trustee of the CA-NV Section from 1987-1991, and also Education Administrator from 1974-1978.

The CA-NV Section AWWA awarded him the George A Elliot Memorial Award in 1989, the Walter Weight Memorial Membership Award in 1998, and the George W. Fuller Award in 2007. Dr. Kerri has published over twenty books, twenty-five journal articles, and has presented at countless conferences.

Ken lives on through his loved ones and the Ken Kerri Endowment Fund at California State University, Sacramento, established to honor the Professor Emeritus. In the world of water professionals, Dr. Kerri leaves a legacy second to none.