



June 29, 2023

## Naomi H. Harley, August 4, 1932 – June 11, 2023 In Memoriam



Dr. Naomi Ann Hallden Harley passed away on June 11, 2023, at the age of 90.

Dr. Harley was raised in Tenafly, New Jersey. She received her PhD in Radiological Physics from New York University (NYU) in 1971, her ME in Nuclear Engineering from NYU in 1967, her BE in Electrical Engineering from The Cooper Union, New York, in 1959, and an APC in Management from the New York University Graduate Business School in 1983.

Up until her passing, Dr. Harley was a Research Professor, in the Department of Environmental Medicine, at the NYU School of Medicine. Prior to her appointment to the faculty at the School of Medicine, she was Head of the Special Projects Group at the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission Health and Safety Laboratory. Her primary research interest was in the measurement and dose evaluation of human exposure to ionizing radiation, in particular radon and other naturally occurring radioactive materials. Her research resulted in over 170 scientific publications, along with six patents. In her years on the faculty, she mentored many MS and doctoral students who went on to contribute to the health physics community.

Dr. Harley was a member of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) from 1982 to 2000 and was elected a Distinguished Emeritus Member in 2000. She chaired several scientific committees: (SC) 57-4 which published *Evaluation of Occupational and Environmental Exposures to Radon and Radon Daughters in the United States* (NCRP Report No. 78); SC 61, *Measurement of Radon and Radon Daughters in Air* (NCRP Report No. 97); and SC 85, Risk of Lung Cancer from Radon. She also co-wrote Commentary No. 6, *Radon Exposure of the U.S. Population—Status of the Problem*.

She was a member of SC 73 (Report No. 77, *Exposures from the Uranium Series with Emphasis on Radon and Its Daughters*) and Advisory Committee 93 on Radiation Measurement and Dosimetry. Dr. Harley delivered the Lauriston S. Taylor Lecture No. 23 entitled “Back to Background: Natural Radiation and Radioactivity Exposed” in 1999. She chaired the 1988 Annual Meeting Program Committee on “Radon” and was member of the 2001 Program Committee where she also made a presentation on “Laboratory Analyses: Environmental and Biological Measurements.”

Dr. Harley was a member of the United States Delegation to the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. She served on four National Research Council committees and chaired a Rand Committee that produced a review of Gulf War health effects from depleted uranium. In addition, she was a fellow of the Health Physics Society and a member of the Association for Aerosol Research, American Chemical Society, and the American Association for Advancement of Science.

She was predeceased by her husband, Dr. John H. Harley (also an NCRP Distinguished Emeritus member and Taylor Lecturer). A memorial service for Dr. Harley will be held at a later date. Dr. Harley was laid to rest with her husband at George Washington Memorial Park, Paramus, New Jersey.