IN MEMORY OF WARREN A. HALL, FOUNDING FATHER OF UCOWR AND NOTED WATER RESOURCES EDUCATOR

Dr. Warren A. Hall, known worldwide for his active involvement in water resources research and education, died in Aurora, Colorado on June 24 of an apparent heart attack. He was one of the founders in 1962 of the Universities Council on Water Resources and at its annual conference in August this year, UCOWR honored Warren Hall. In a speech delivered by Nathan Burus, Dr. Hall's achievements were noted followed by a moment of silence in his memory. The delegation then passed a resolution for the establishment of the Warren A. Hall Distinguished Water Resources Young Faculty Medal and voted to dedicate the conference proceedings to him.

Dr. Hall, who unpretentiously introduced himself as Mr. Hall or Warren, was born Aug. 12, 1919 and raised on a dryland farm near Crawford, Nebraska. He earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from the California Institute of Technology in 1942 and followed that with a tour as an industrial relations officer for the U.S. Navy during World War II. Shortly afterwards, he began a distinguished career with the University of California.

He received a doctorate from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1952. His pioneering ideas in education, which involved eliminating departmentalization in academics, led to his appointment as Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies in the College of Engineering at UCLA. He was in charge of curriculum development and the administration of undergraduate degrees.

In 1960, as the nation began to feel the necessity for in-depth research of its water needs and resources, Dr. Hall was selected as Director of the Water Resources Center, which involved all campuses of the University of California. Under his direction, the center approached water-resources from a broad point of view with participation by the social and physical sciences.

But, faculty interested in water resources were relatively isolated—a small number of individuals scattered through many departments and universities—with no means of exploration or action on matters of mutual concern. Dr. Hall provided the catalyst for that action. He convened two conferences that resulted in the creation of the Universities Council on Water Resources. During its formative years, Dr. Hall served as a member of the board of directors, as executive secretary and as chairman. Today, this organization is recognized throughout the world as the authoritative voice on matters of water-resources research and education.

Ever interested in new challenges, Dr. Hall accepted in 1966 the task of directing the University of California's Dry Land Research Institute in Riverside. Hall concentrated on a program that demonstrated production of corn, sorghum and even peaches in the midst of a desert of creosote brush. His water-resources research and his interest in agriculture lead to unique contributions in reservoir management and irrigation-systems control. He applied these skills to many consulting assignments in other countries including India, Iraq, Brazil, Peru and Chile.

Dr. Hall pioneered the introduction of systems analysis and multi-objective tradeoff analysis in water-resources planning and management. In 1971, he was co-author of an internationally recognized textbook on that subject.

The federal government has a habit of borrowing the best talents of the states and Dr. Hall was in great demand. Richard Nixon appointed Dr. Hall to be Technical Assistant for Water Resources, Office of Science and Technology, Executive Office of the President. He also served as chairman of the Committee on Water Resources Research of the Federal Council on Science and Technology, and as a member of the President's Task Group on the Great Lakes and the Joint U.S.-Canadian Working Group on the Great Lakes.

Dr. Hall became director of the Office of Water Research and Technology, U.S. Department the Interior in 1972. In 1974, he joined the faculty of Colorado State University as the first Elwood Mead Professor of Engineering. He remained at Colorado State until his retirement in 1985. Most recently, he resided in Meeker, Oklahoma.

Dr. Hall was a humble, personable, and resourceful professor, consultant and engineer who emanated endless energy. He was loved and admired by his students and respected by his peers. His door was always open to students and colleagues, and his enthusiasm to discuss water-resources problems never diminished.

A story told of him by intimates shows the measure of Dr. Hall's interest in people as individuals. An undergraduate engineering student at UCLA was in the process of flunking out when Dr. Hall called the student in for a talk. The student in effect said he was too important on campus and no one could flunk him. But flunk he did. Yet, Dr. Hall did not let the case drop. Through third parties, he kept track of the student for two years, and when he had overcome the problems that caused his poor scholarship, Dr. Hall invited the student back to campus. The student responded with honor grades and now is one of the more successful engineers in the West.

Dr. Hall served as a key mentor for many young scientists and engineers and as host to many foreign graduate students. His generosity of spirit and able counsel touched many lives.