



**Norman Mitlin**

2/13/1918 - 12/6/2003

Norman Mitlin, 85, of Rock Hill, S.C., died Saturday, 6 December 2003. He was born in Brooklyn, NY, on Feb. 13, 1918, where he graduated from high school at age 16. Mr. Mitlin was the son of Joseph Mitlin and Fannie Goldfein Mitlin. He graduated from New York University and did graduate studies at the University of Maryland, Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, and the US Department of Agriculture Graduate School. His early education was interrupted by the Depression and service in the Army Air Force during World War II. During the war he taught combat pilots instrument flying. After the war he joined a pesticide manufacturing company.

He began his career as a research entomologist with the US Department of Agriculture at Beltsville, MD, in 1949, specializing in the development of the then new synthetic insecticides, and later in the toxicology and physiology of

insects. He was one of the pioneers in developing methods of using chemicals to sexually sterilize insects, a method which has gained wide support. In 1961, he was transferred to the newly activated Boll Weevil Research Laboratory at Mississippi State University. There he headed a unit which was responsible for developing methods for sterilizing the boll weevil, a particular pest of cotton. Eventually the sterilization method, along with others, was incorporated in a program which effectively eliminated the boll weevil as a major pest of cotton in the Southeastern states.

While at the Boll Weevil Laboratory, he served as adjunct professor of entomology at Mississippi State University. He was author and co-author of more than 100 papers on insect physiology, insect sterilization, and insecticide evaluation.

Mr. Mitlin retired as research leader from the USDA in 1978, and was offered and accepted a position of research associate at Mississippi State University where he worked in immunology in the Poultry Department. While in Starkville, he was a member and chairman of the Starkville Public Library Board of Trustees for 16 years.

In 1980, he retired to Rock Hill, SC, where he was appointed adjunct associate professor in the Biology Department of Winthrop Univer-

sity. Early on in Rock Hill, he served on the executive committee of the Friends of the York County Library and on the Functional Group of the "Empowering the Vision" Committee. He was instrumental in organizing the local chapter of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees and served as its first president. More recently he was a volunteer at the Museum of York County and served as a volunteer driving instructor in the AARP driving program for mature individuals. He was a member of the Entomological Society of America and the South Carolina Entomological Society. He had been elected to Sigma Xi, the honorary scientific research society and to Gamma Sigma Delta, the honorary agricultural society, and was listed in Who's Who in the South and Southwest.

He leaves a son, Laurance R. Mitlin, professor at Winthrop University, a daughter-in-law, Debbie S. Mollycheck, attorney, two grandchildren, Frank Mollycheck Mitlin and Rebecca Mollycheck Mitlin, a brother, Ira G. Mitlin of St. Petersburg, FL, three nephews and two nieces. His wife of 56 years, Luceille Liston Mitlin, died in 1998.

Memorials may be made to the York County Culture and Heritage Commission, 4621 Mount Gallant Rd., Rock Hill, SC 29732-8666.