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1918-2008**

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Paul J. Waite, long-time State Climatologist for Iowa, died at the age of 89 in Pittsfield, IL on April 28, 2008. Paul was born on June 21, 1918 in New Salem, IL. He graduated from New Salem High School in 1936 and received a Bachelor of Education in Science and Mathematics from Western State College in Macomb, IL in 1940. He taught and coached in several Illinois schools prior to entering the Air Force Meteorology Cadet Program at the University of Chicago in 1942. He served as a weather officer for the USAF from 1943 to 1946. He then served as a weather-briefer for the then US Weather Bureau in Chicago from 1948 to 1951. In 1951-1952 he served as a USAF meteorologist in Korea, then returned to work for the USWB in Kansas City. He was the USWB State Climatologist in Madison, WI from 1956-1959, then took the same position in Des Moines, IA from 1959-1973.

Upon the demise of the federal State Climatologist program in 1973 Paul worked briefly as a forecaster in Des Moines, then worked at the Johnson Space Center in Houston from 1974-1976 where he was a Deputy Program Manager for a project utilizing satellite imagery to evaluate crop conditions. Mr. Waite was active in

working toward state funding of the State Climatologist position and returned to Des Moines to be the State Climatologist of the Iowa Department of Agriculture in 1976. He remained in this position until his retirement in 1988. Paul also earned a Master of Science in Meteorology degree from the University of Michigan in 1966. He served as an adjunct professor at Drake University in Des Moines for many years and volunteered as the official wind observer for the Drake Relays for over 40 years.

Paul was elected as the Secretary of the American Association of State Climatologists (AASC) at their first meeting in Asheville, NC in 1976, and elected as AASC President in 1977. He strongly advocated that the State Climatologists give their highest priority to public service, and he valued climatological research that could be applied to the benefit of the public. He was a mentor to newly appointed state climatologists who sought his advice about creating state climatology programs. In addition, he hosted the AASC annual meeting in Des Moines in 1987.

Paul is survived by his wife Mildred of Pittsfield, IL; a daughter Carolyn Waite-

Bojarra of Caledon, Ontario; a son Lawrence Waite and wife Courtnay of Onalaska, WI and five grandchildren. Also surviving are sisters Viola Benson of Pittsfield, IL and Louise (James) Opoien of Marinette, WI and a brother Ralph of Pittsfield, IL.

Paul was in good health until his last few weeks. He kept in regular contact with the Iowa SC office through his retirement years in Des Moines, Kannapolis, NC and Pittsfield, IL. He was a true gentleman who loved his work. Paul made public service the overriding goal of the Iowa SC office and became a household name across the state. He was an active promoter of the Iowa SC office and the AASC. His enthusiasm, sense of humor and historical knowledge will be greatly missed.

Memorials may be made to the Paul J. Waite Atmospheric Studies Award at Drake University; c/o Office of Development, 2507 University Ave., Des Moines, IA, 50311.