



The Walter F. Snyder Award for 1988

Presented to

MARK D. HOLLIS

In honoring Mark Hollis we honor four distinct careers in environmental health, each one so outstanding it deserves recognition by itself.

1931-1961: Mark Hollis, Assistant Surgeon General and Rear Admiral, in the U.S. Public Health Service.

1961-1973: Mark Hollis, Chief Engineer and Director of Environmental Health with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

1973-1979: Mark Hollis, Vice-Chairman, Florida Environmental Regulation Commission, the Governor's advisory body on environmental policies.

1980-1987: "Dr. Mark," Environmental Consultant, Publix Supermarkets, Lakeland, Florida.

These were not just positions held, but fields of accomplishment so

notable that it is no exaggeration to say they add up to one of the most outstanding contributions to environmental health in our century.

Dr. Hollis received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Georgia in 1933, and his Doctor of Science from the University of Florida in 1956.

He began his environmental career in typhus fever research with the Rockefeller Foundation in Alabama in 1932. He joined the Public Health Service in 1933; his first duty station was Washington D.C. In 1934 he was assigned to North Dakota for reorganization of the state's Bureau of Sanitary Engineering.

In 1939 he was transferred to Cincinnati and became engaged in the first water pollution study ever undertaken on an entire river basin. Later he was instrumental in creating,

in that city, a permanent center for pollution studies, which became known as the Robert A. Taft Sanitary Engineering Center.

During World War II he was engaged in defense related activities, notably as Officer-in-Charge of Malaria Control in War Areas (MCWA). His job: establish a mosquito-free zone within a one mile radius around each military and industrial establishment serving the war effort in 15 southeastern states and in California, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and U.S. controlled Caribbean areas.

After the war, MCWA became the Communicable Disease Center (CDC)—known today as the Centers for Disease Control—and Dr. Hollis, its first director.

In 1946 he was transferred to Washington where he became Executive Officer of the U.S. Public Health Service (and a year later also Chief Engineer) under his model and mentor, Surgeon General Dr. Thomas Parran. Dr. Parran's confidence in Dr. Hollis was such that he appointed him to a committee of three who were charged with reorganizing the National Institutes of Health.

During these years Dr. Hollis was a friend and associate of Walter Snyder. As evidence of the personal regard these two great environmentalists had for one another, Dr. Hollis served as Chairman of the National Sanitation Foundation's Council of Public Health Consultants for 13 years.

In 1958 he was severely criticized for a *U.S. News and World Report*

interview in which he predicted that air pollution would become the nation's number one environmental problem. Fifteen years later he was vindicated and hailed for his environmental vision.

When he retired from the U.S. Public Health Service in 1961, his exemplary career was cited in the Congressional Record and he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

In his second career, with WHO and PAHO, Dr. Hollis was instrumental in arresting a cholera epidemic in India, and in developing wastewater treatment and water systems in Third World countries.

In the penultimate periods of his "retirement," Dr. Mark distinguished himself yet again with service to the State of Florida and Publix Supermarkets in the areas of water quality and wastewater treatment.

Even in so brief a summary as this, one can begin to appreciate the measure of the man whom lifelong colleagues describe as one of the greatest environmentalists ever.

"His legacy," wrote one, "is not just of work completed, but of living institutions that are continuously working to make planet earth a safer and better place for man to live."

The National Sanitation Foundation and the National Environmental Health Association are pleased to honor this outstanding man for his extraordinary contributions to environmental health.

Past Recipients of the Walter F. Snyder Award

*Callis F. Atkins
Ralph C. Pickard
William A. Broadway, Jr.
James E. Jump
Charles L. Senn*

*Charles C. Johnson, Jr.
Larry J. Gordon
Ray B. Watts
John G. Todd
Charles H. Gillham*

*Emil T. Chanlett
John R. Bagby, Jr.
William Anderson
William G. Walter
Albert H. Brunwasser
George A. Kupfer*

