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IN MEMORY OF DON TUCKER

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Don Tucker was born in Seligman, Missouri on May 19, 1924 and died in January, 1979. He received his B. S. degree in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois in 1951, and his Ph. D. degree from Florida State University in 1961.

It is a special privilege for me to make a few statements about Don Tucker. Don and I shared at least two things in common, i.e., we were doctoral students at FSU and we both had distinguished major professors (Winthrop N. Kellogg and Lloyd M. Beidler). In fact, I first met Don when we were both graduate students in one of Kellogg's seminars in 1957. We became friends, but did not begin our collaboration until about 1963. My first serious encounter with Don was when he was teaching me how to do olfactory bulb ablations. He didn't like something I did and he called me a stupid-son-of-a-bitch. I am pleased to say that as the years moved on, he dropped the stupid part.

Don and I shared lab space and equipment; we were co-principal investigators on two grants; and eventually, we co-authored eight papers. Many of you knew Don well and would tell different stories about his life and work, but I think our conclusions would be the same.

Don Tucker demanded excellence from himself and from those around him. He was recognized worldwide as an outstanding physiologist in the field of olfaction. He made a lasting impression on his colleagues with his careful and truthful approach to science. In spite of the fact that Tucker's position at the University was a full time research one, he had a strong influence on many postdocs and graduate students who worked for various periods in his lab. Shibuya, Suzuki, Kiyohara, Little, and Tonosaki studied as postdocs and Caprio, Silver and Brock as predocs. Whitney's and my students were taught their electrophysiology, surgery, and olfactometry by him. Dinc, Shumake, Henton, Roll, Pierson, Oley, Wysocki, Chao, Krestel, Passe, and Walker all were made richer by Tucker's instruction.

Tucker grew up in hard times in a tough environment. Education was the last priority for his family. Because of difficult times during the depression, he never went to high school. Instead, he joined the Civil Conservation Corps. I remember one day when we were talking, Don gave me a vivid description of the difficulty he had in learning how to use the first toilet he ever saw when he joined the CCC. Don subsequently went into the Marines in 1943. He rose to the rank of Staff Sgt. as a radar technician. After the war he went to the University of Illinois and obtained a degree in electrical engineering. While a student he worked as an elec-
ronic technician for Professor C. L. Prosser and learned the technique for nerve recording. From 1949–1953 he worked as a research assistant in the Electrical Engineering Research Laboratory at the University of Illinois and was co-author on seven papers with Fry, Wulff, Wall, Stevens, Lettvin, and Melton. After a brief stay at the Raytheon Corp., he came to FSU as an electronic technician for Dr. Biedler. His skills with surgery and nerve recording became apparent and he began to devote his time to electrophysiology. He enrolled in the doctoral program, and after he completed his degree he never left Florida State University. He worked extremely hard, and you know the rest of the story.

He was the first scientist to record olfactory nerve responses from natural stimulation of the organ. I first realized the important place he had in the chemical senses at the ISOT meetings at Rockefeller in August, 1968. Professor Zotterman called on him for the answer to a question in olfaction with the words "there is only one person in this room who can accurately answer this question; Tucker, where are you?"

I also learned a great deal about Don, the person, at that meeting. I roomed with Don and for the first time I saw first hand how he had to struggle with his health problems. From that time on, Don's gruffness never bothered me. I studied the things that irritated him and practiced not doing them.

When Don died, we lost an outstanding scientist, a great colleague, and I lost a true friend.