

IN MEMORIAM

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) was saddened to learn of the deaths of the following individuals. We extend our sympathies to the families, friends, and colleagues of these individuals. Each had a profound impact on our profession and the people around them. All will be greatly missed.



Richard Briley

Richard Briley of Wills Point, Texas, passed away on April 21, 2023. Briley was employed at Hunt County Health Department and Garland Health Department, where he retired on June 30, 2017. He was a Registered Sanitarian with the state of Texas and a Diplomate of the American Academy of Sanitarians. Further, he held a Certified Professional–Food Safety (CP-FS) credential from NEHA. He was also a first responder.

Briley was active in many different associations. He was a member of the Lab Safety Committee at Texas A&M University–Commerce and a member of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. He was also an active and longtime member of the Texas Environmental Health Association, Texas Association of Municipal Health Officials, and NEHA.

Briley was born in Dallas, Texas, and grew up in Wills Point. He received his bachelor's degree in 1983 and his master's degree in 1985 from East Texas State University. He was an Elton John enthusiast and enjoyed reading and gardening. He also had a cattle business that raised Simmental cattle.



Karen Casale

Karen Casale of Ramsey, Minnesota, passed away on April 30, 2023. She started her career as an environmental health specialist with the District of Columbia Bureau of Food and Drug. She had the honor of serving as the health inspector of an event at the White House to ensure food safety. After returning home to Minnesota, Casale worked as an environmental health specialist with the Anoka County Community Health and

Environmental Services Department for 45 years.

Casale was a dedicated and lifetime member of the Minnesota Environmental Health Association (MEHA) for 50 years. She was

the first female environmental health specialist in Minnesota and the first recipient of the MEHA Frank A. Staffenson Environmental Health Professional of the Year Award in 2003. She was honored with the MEHA Life Award following her retirement from Anoka County in 2017. Casale was also a member of NEHA for 50 years.

The memories and legacy Casale leaves behind are a testament to a well-lived life. Her friendly, intelligent, exuberant, and caring exterior endeared her to all. Her feistiness allowed her to face her battles with great strength and courage, and she navigated every twist and turn of life with resilience, optimism, and grace.



George A. Kupfer

George A. Kupfer of Grayslake, Illinois, passed away on June 4, 2023. He served as president of NEHA from 1990–1991. He was also honored with the Walter S. Mangold Award in 2001, the highest honor NEHA bestows on its membership.

The following are excerpts from his Mangold Award biography published in the October 2001 *Journal of Environmental Health*:

Kupfer spent his lifetime in public service and made a lasting contribution to the environmental health profession, both nationally and internationally. Starting as a staff sanitarian in the public sector and then moving into the private sector as an industry executive, his responsibilities included hands-on inspections, teaching, program and organizational administration, business development, and entrepreneurship.

In 2001, Kupfer was continuing into his 46th year in the environmental health profession and was serving as the executive liaison for health and environment for Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL). He was a major contributor at UL in the development of standards in related safety disciplines, as well as the establishment of criteria for accrediting laboratories that conduct sanitation safety certification.

His time at UL was preceded by 6 years as chief operating officer for NSF International and 34 years as an environmental health director and specialist for the city of Milwaukee. At NSF, Kupfer worked hard to improve the quality of life through consensus standards and accurate, cost-effective conformity assessment of products and services focused on environmental and public health. Under his leadership in Milwaukee, the city developed a broad spectrum of new and innovative approaches to the prevention of environmental-related diseases.

During his time as president of NEHA, he was involved in several fundamental changes in the organization's structure. His organizational leadership extended beyond NEHA to the American Public Health Association, Conference of Local Environmental

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Health Administrators, Council on Education for Public Health, and Canadian Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH).

Another respected quality of Kupfer's was that he truly understood the importance of a global perspective for environmental health professionals. At NSF, he played a major role in founding the NEHA/CIEH Sabbatical Award. The award was given annually to an environmental health professional from the U.S. and the UK to further their understanding and experience in the global aspects of environmental health. ❁

Editor's Note: If you would like to share information about the passing of an environmental health professional to be mentioned in a future In Memoriam, please contact Kristen Ruby-Cisneros at kruby@neha.org. The *Journal* will publish the In Memoriam section twice a year in the June and December issues, or in other issues as determined appropriate.

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