

IN MEMORIAM

Scott Meador

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) was saddened to learn that Scott Meador passed away on May 19, 2021, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Meador started his public health career in 2003 at the health department in Mesquite, Texas. He worked as a sanitarian and in the mosquito control program. In 2007, he started at the Tulsa Health Department in the Environmental Health Division as an environmental specialist and eventually became the vector control program coordinator.

Meador did an excellent job improving the Mosquito Control Program at the Tulsa Health Department. He was instrumental in creating new standard operating procedures that reflected current changes in mosquito control. The new procedures made it easier to trap, collect, and test mosquitoes for West Nile virus. He worked with several municipalities to improve their mosquito programs in northeast Oklahoma. Meador was well known to the local media stations as the mosquito guy. He was interviewed many times a year to educate residents on how they could reduce the mosquito population to prevent the spread of disease. He was dedicated to improving the quality of life for the residents of Tulsa County and the improvements he made in the mosquito program benefited all people and stakeholders in northeast Oklahoma.

Meador worked on a couple of projects with the Public Health Foundation (PHF) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). One example was the Vector Control Population Health Driver Diagram Project led by PHF and made possible through support from CDC's National Center for Environmental Health. The health driver diagram was used collaboratively by public health and healthcare partners to identify and address the primary and secondary drivers of a shared community health challenge. Meador used several quality improvement techniques to improve the efficiency and target areas of the community where mosquitoes were found to carry West Nile virus.

Although Meador had a great impact in the Tulsa community, his professional work reached far and wide across NEHA and beyond. He participated in the NEHA Vector Program Committee for many years. His accomplishments included the development and dissemination of the NEHA policy statement on comprehensive mosquito control (www.neha.org/government-affairs/neha-policy-statements) and support of the development of the integrated mosquito and tick management webinars. His work will continue to have an impact on the vector community for many years to come.



As a dedicated public health official, Meador spent the last year serving as the safety officer for the Tulsa Health Department during the COVID-19 pandemic response. He used his talents to help organize and coordinate both the testing and vaccine distribution sites. He tirelessly walked the route people would take while at the Tulsa Health Department's point of dispensing (POD) sites looking for safety hazards, chatting with people and assisting them where needed. As military history was a huge interest to Meador, he collected veteran stories along the way by striking up conversations as veterans would come in for vaccine appointments.

Meador loved being a dad and traveling with his wife, Shauna. He loved all things baseball, NASCAR, and U2. On the weekends, he could be found restoring military helmets for people all over the country. The Tulsa Health Department will miss Scott Meador and are forever grateful for his contributions to his community.

NEHA extends its deepest sympathies to the family, friends, and colleagues of Scott Meador. His passion and devotion to protecting the health and safety of the community he served, as well as our country, will not be forgotten. 🇺🇸

Source: Text and photo courtesy of the Tulsa Health Department Environmental Services.

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.

Did You Know?

Members are extremely important to NEHA and its mission. NEHA's membership structure includes five different membership categories—Professional, Emerging Professional, Retired Professional, International, and Life. Environmental health professionals can benefit from NEHA membership at any career stage. Learn more at www.neha.org/join.