Richard R. Klimpel — 1939-1998

This issue of *Minerals & Metallurgical Processing* is dedicated to Dr. Richard R. Klimpel. May we honor the Renaissance man who built a career out of generating diverse new processing technology and whose important intellectual gifts to the mineral-processing industry have proven invaluable. The mineral-processing industry lost one of its new-age pioneers when Richard R. Klimpel, renowned scientist, died November 4, 1998, at the age of 59. He is well known for reapplying the fundamentals of mineral processing in a refreshingly unique and novel manner. His loss will be deeply felt. He is survived by his wife Charlene and his sons Richard and Steven.

Klimpel was born in Billings, MT, on September 23, 1939. He grew up in Montana, North Dakota and Minnesota, where he was an avid rock collector. In high school, he earned all-state recognition for football. He earned a B.S. in chemistry and mathematics, an M.S. in mathematics and statistics and a Ph.D. in material science and applied mathematics. In 1964, Klimpel began a 31-year career at Dow Chemical Co., where he held a variety of technology management positions. He held the company's highest technical position, senior research scientist, during his last ten years with Dow.

Klimpel retired from Dow Chemical in 1995 to form his own consulting company, RK Associates. He has authored six books and over 100 journal articles, and he was granted at least 40 US patents. His most prominent work was with mathematical modeling of engineering and economic systems, applied chemical engineering, size-reduction process analysis and scale up, froth flotation, optimization techniques applied to engineering systems and the use of chemicals in mineral processing.

Klimpel's industrial contributions are widely recognized. During 1988, he received the SME Distinguished Member award and the AIME Robert H. Richards Award. He was named the Michigan inventor of the year, and he received the inventor of the year award from Dow in 1989 and 1991. In 1992, he was selected as the Henry Krumb Distinguished Lecturer. In 1994, he was honored with SME's Antoine M. Gaudin Award for his work in froth flotation and new reagent identification. He became known as the "Apostle of Flotation." During 1997, he served as President of SME.

Klimpel was able to focus on industrial problems and discover the simplest, most understandable complete solution. He was able to incorporate new knowledge in an established field. This led to the sculpting of novel ways of thinking about mineral processing. He constantly provided the intellectual tools that the industry required to move forward. He had a wonderfully contagious optimism that influenced everyone that was fortunate enough to meet him. He was a warm, extremely bright shooting star that burned out too fast. He will be missed dearly by his family, friends and colleagues.

S. Komar Kawatra
Editor-in-Chief