

## PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

**Vince Radke Retires**

Vince Radke, MPH, RS, CP-FS, DLAAS, CPH, retired in September 2018 from the Water, Food, and Environmental Health Services Branch of the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) after 17 years. In total, Radke's environmental public health career spans over four decades.

While at CDC, Radke was part of the Environmental Health Specialists Network conducting research on the contributing factors and antecedents of foodborne illness. He was instrumental in the development of the Environmental Assessment Training Series and the National Environmental Assessment Reporting System. He was also involved in vector control and emergency preparedness and response issues and training.

Prior to working at CDC, Radke spent 22 years in the environmental health field at state and local levels in several states. Before that, he was part of the Smallpox Eradication Program, first as a Peace Corps volunteer and then later as a technical advisor with the World Health Organization (WHO).

Radke joined the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) in 1980 and has been actively involved in the association, currently serving as its president. He's also been active in several NEHA affiliates, as well as other organizations.

As seen in the photo at the top, Radke's career has been marked with numerous awards. He's received the Order of the Bifurcated Needle from WHO (1980), Jerrold M. Michael Award from the National Capital Area Environmental Health Association (1997 and 1999), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service (2005), Distinguished Service and Professional Achievement Award from the American Public Health Association (2006), and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Bronze Medal Award (2011).

In 2013, Radke was named the recipient of the NEHA/NSF International Walter F. Snyder Award for his achievements in advancing environmental health. He also received the NEHA Past Presidents Award in 2013 in recognition of his longstanding service and contributions to the profession.

Beyond the accolades and the lengthy resume, however, Radke is a mentor and leader in environmental health. He's created a legacy through his work that has impacted numerous individuals, which is evident in the quotes from his colleagues.

"Over the years, Vince's expertise, sincere dedication, strong work ethic, and professionalism have served CDC and the American people well. He has made significant contributions to CDC's environmental health, emergency response, and food safety programs. Vince's public health achievements will continue to have an impact well beyond his years of service." – John Sarisky, chief of the Water, Food, and Environmental Health Services Branch, NCEH, CDC



*Vince Radke's office at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is a testament to a long, impactful, and successful career. Photo courtesy of Kirsten Reed, CDC.*

"Working with Vince at CDC was one of the great honors and joys of my career. Vince and I started our work at CDC on the same day and for the next 14 years, we experienced many adventures, challenges, accomplishments, and disappointments together. While Vince and I shared countless laughs over the years, when it came to our work, it was serious business. I always admired how Vince put everything he had into the job. He truly cares about people and would always give his best to make people's lives better. For my dear friend, my great hope is that your retirement is filled with countless joys and continued laughter." – CAPT Mike Herring, U.S. Public Health Service (retired)

"To local public health professionals, Vince is the face of environmental health at CDC. His position as sanitarian there, his wide and varied experiences in many areas of environmental health, his national and international presence, and his willingness to always assist others in the execution of their work are consistent hallmarks of his dedication and professionalism. Coupled with his presentation skills, affable manner, and ability for engaging storytelling and hand-washing skills, Vince personifies the best in environmental health." – Michèle Samarya-Timm, Somerset County Department of Health

"I will forever be honored to have worked closely with Vince in the many CDC-funded vector control workshops that were provided to the environmental health community. Workshop participants would consistently thank us for offering valuable 'field practice' information in dealing with insect and rodent control issues that were faced daily. Vince, please know you made a difference in advancing the careers of the environmental health professionals you encountered!" – Tom Dickey, retired NEHA employee

"Spending time with Vince is akin to the thoughts of Spanish novelist Miguel de Cervantes, 'the journey is better than the inn.' Time shared with Vince are gems, always rewarding and inevitably full of surprise." – Dr. David Dyjack, NEHA executive director

NEHA congratulates Vince on this milestone event and thanks him for his incalculable contributions to the professions. From everyone at the NEHA office, we wish Vince the best in this next stage of life! 🎉

*People on the Move is designed to keep NEHA members informed about what their peers in environmental health are up to. If you or someone you know has received a promotion, changed careers, or earned a special recognition in the profession, please notify Kristen Ruby-Cisneros at [kruby@neha.org](mailto:kruby@neha.org). It is NEHA's pleasure to announce our reader's achievements and new directions of fellow members. This feature will run only when we have material to print—so be sure to send in your announcements!*