REUBEN CAPELOUTO 1920-1980

Reuben Capeluto was born 7 November 1920, in Atlanta and moved to Tallahassee with his family in 1923. He entered the University of Florida in 1939 on a music scholarship. He left school in 1942 to join the U.S. Army Air Corps, serving in the Pacific during World War II. Returning to the University of Florida in 1945, he obtained a B.S. and a M.S. in Agriculture in 1947 and 1949, with majors in Entomology. His M.S. thesis, Taxonomy of the Buprestidae, revealed several new Florida records; these records were published in the Florida Entomologist (1949, 32: 109-14). After graduating from the University of Florida, he worked for Orkin Exterminating Co. in Daytona until 1953 when he was transferred to Tallahassee as manager of the Orkin office there. In 1965, he started his own business, Capeluto Termite & Pest Control, Inc., in Tallahassee. In 1970, he began to teach courses in pest control at Florida A&M University as an Adjunct Associate Professor, becoming an Associate Professor in 1977 when the program was expanded to a full degree in Structural Pest Control—one of only a few in the nation. He continued to manage his own business part-time and to teach part-time at FAMU until his death on 5 July 1980, in Tallahassee.

Reuben Capeluto was always concerned with education and professionalism in pest control and served as a member of the Structural Pest Control Commission in Florida from 1962 to 1965, a position to which he was appointed by Governor Farris Bryant. He was a member of the Florida Entomological Society, the Newell Entomological Society, the Florida Pest Control Association, the National Pest Control Association, and the former American Association of Economic Entomologists. Reuben was an enthusiastic teacher who brought more than 20 years of practical experience into the formal coursework in pest control. Besides his work in business, state, and university programs, he willingly volunteered to teach elementary school enrichment programs. His general concern for students led his family and friends to establish the Reuben Capeluto Foundation, Inc., at Florida A&M University to aid students in Entomology and Structural Pest Control.

Reuben Capeluto also retained a lifelong interest in music. He was a member of the band and the symphony orchestra at the University of Florida and played in many smaller bands and musical groups during college and while in Daytona and Tallahassee. He was active in numerous civic organizations and in Temple Israel in Tallahassee, and served on the Tallahassee Memorial Hospital Board (1972-1976). He is survived by his wife Rachel, three sons, Grant, Raymond, and Carl, and a daughter Sue Linda.

Acknowledgment. On 18 February 1981, during the Entomology and Structural Pest Control Field Day and Workshop, a Memorial Service was held at Florida A&M University in recognition of the work of Professor Capeluto. This program was conducted by FAMU President Walter L. Smith and Vice-President Gertrude L. Simmons. Much of the biographical information for this article came from the Memorial Program written by Dr. Simmons.

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