

Kennedy Reed
In memoriam
IUPAP EC&CC meeting & GA, October 2023



Before we start with our activities, we want to take a few moments to remember Kennedy Reed, the 26th President of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP), who passed away last June. This was a very sad news of those of us who knew him or had worked with him. But we also want to celebrate his contributions to IUPAP and to physics in general and, in particular, his efforts to increase diversity in physics in his country, the US, and around the world.

Kennedy received his PhD from the University of Nebraska in 1976 in theoretical atomic physics and made distinguished contributions to the understanding of electron-atom and atom-atom collisions, particularly those relevant to high energy and high-density plasmas. He worked for a long time with the Atomic Theory Group at the Lawrence Livermore Lab from which he retired in 2017.

Kennedy served IUPAP for seventeen years. He started his work with our Union as a member of the IUPAP Commission on Physics for Development (C13) in 2002 of which he was Chair in 2008-2011. He attracted the first grant that the IUPAP received from the then International Council for Science (ICSU), now transformed into ISC. He was then elected as the IUPAP nominee to the ICSU Executive Board, and in that capacity served on the ICSU committee for their Regional Office for Africa.

He was elected IUPAP President Designate at the 28th General Assembly in 2014 and as President at the 29th General Assembly in 2017. He served as IUPAP President until his resignation on October 2nd, 2019, due to personal reasons. His work as President was made

difficult by health difficulties, which began as a result a serious fall that happened while he was representing IUPAP at the state funeral of his old friend IUPAP vice president Francis Allotey in February 2018. He continued to work hard for IUPAP in spite of his illness until it became impossible to continue.

He was always deeply involved in actions to increase the participation and recognition of minority groups, particularly women and Black Physicists. He was a co-founder of the National Physical Science Consortium in the US which provides fellowships for women and minority PhD graduates. He was recognized for this activity with the 2009 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring during the presidency of Barack Obama. He was also a fellow of the American Physical Society. He had a particular interest in African physicists and physics. He received the 2003 John Wheatly award from the American Physical Society for the promotion of physics research education in Africa. He strongly supported the successful application with the International Union of Crystallography to ICSU for the 3-year grant that led to the establishment of the project *Lightsources for Africa, the Americas, Asia, Middle East and Pacific* (LAAAMP). He was a strong supporter of the proposal of a LightSource for Africa.

The last time I saw Kennedy in person was at the EC&CC meeting in Vilnius where he talked about his love for music and piano. He was a lovely person. We will miss him very much. I kindly ask you to keep a moment of silence to remember him.

Silvina Ponce Dawson
President Designate, IUPAP