

Charles E. Kolb Jr. May 21, 1945 - January 5, 2020



The members of the NASA Panel for Data Evaluation dedicate this publication in memory of our long-time associate, Charles E. Kolb Jr., known as Chuck to all of his many friends. Chuck had an amazing career in science through his nearly 50-year association with Aerodyne Research Inc. where he was President and CEO for the past 35 years. Chuck collaborated across a broad range of disciplines working with scientists in government agencies, private industry, and academia on research issues in atmospheric and environmental chemistry, combustion chemistry, chemical lasers, materials chemistry, and the chemical physics of rocket and aircraft exhaust plumes. As a result of his exceptional research accomplishments, Chuck received numerous industry awards and academic recognitions; he was a member of the National Academy of Engineering, and a fellow of the American Physical Society, the American Geophysical Union, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Optical Society of America.

Chuck's broad scientific expertise together with his vision of science as a universal language and a diplomatic tool was key to his joining the NASA Data Panel in 1992. He approached every panel task with a genuine enthusiasm and was able to break down complex topics for both scientists and lay people alike. In addition to updating the panel recommendations for metal reactions, Chuck undertook the extremely challenging task of providing preferred values of evaluated data for the rates of heterogeneous reactions in recognition of the ever-growing importance of such processes in many atmospheric science issues. As a result of his efforts, the 1992 NASA Data Panel report (JPL 92-20) listed such recommendations for the first time. This section has expanded significantly over the years as can be seen by its comprehensiveness in the current report. As have the many members of the scientific community with whom Chuck interacted, all of the Data Panel members have benefitted from Chuck's wisdom, insights and mentoring. His keen intellect, thoughtful leadership, steadfast friendship, and fundamental kindness will be missed by all.