October 19, 2014

Bethesda, Maryland – The American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) sadly reports the passing of Dr. Maralynne D. Mitcham. Dr. Mitcham died on October 17, 2014 in Charleston, South Carolina after a courageous battle with cancer. She was 64.

Maralynne Denise Mitcham was born in London, England on December 13, 1949 to Albert Thomas Jones and Vera Ruth Eva Aggio Jones. She attended schools in Rhodesia and graduated from St. Andrews School of Occupational Therapy in Northampton, U.K. She earned baccalaureate and masters degrees from the Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia and her Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Psychology from the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia. Dr. Mitcham held appointments at the Medical College of Georgia and the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). At MUSC, Dr. Mitcham Chaired the Occupational Therapy Department for 30 years and held a variety of significant leadership roles within the College of Health Professions and the University.

As a respected educational scholar, Dr. Mitcham was widely published and recognized for her numerous accomplishments, including the pioneering of distance education for occupational therapists. For her extensive contributions to occupational therapy education, she was invited to deliver the prestigious Eleanor Clark Slagle Lecture in 2014. She was also a former president and honorary life member of the AOTF Board of Directors. Dr. Mitcham received many of the highest honors possible from the AOTF and AOTA; including the Meritorious Service Award and was elected to the AOTA Roster of Fellows. Dr. Mitcham was known and respected internationally by her many students and colleagues as much for her gentleness and love of people as for her significant professional and personal achievements.
Dr. Mitcham is survived by her husband R.C. (Chris) Brumfield and many relatives and friends in the U.S. and internationally. The family has requested that contributions in her memory be made to the MUSC Foundation for the Maralynne D. Mitcham Lectureship (CHP) Fund, 18 Bee Street, MSC 450, Charleston, South Carolina, 29425-4500 or The Church of the Holy Communion, 218 Ashley Ave, Charleston, South Carolina, 29403.

A requiem Mass has been scheduled for 11:00 am, Saturday, October 25, at the Church of The Holy Communion, 218 Ashley Avenue, Charleston, SC 29403

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable, scientific and educational organization established in 1965. Its mission is to advance the science of occupational therapy to support people’s full participation in meaningful life activities.

Maralynne D. Mitcham
1949 - 2014