

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject:** Report of Faculty Death  
**Action Requested:** Adoption of Memorial Statement

The Regents of the University of Michigan acknowledge with profound sadness the death of **Homer A. Neal, Ph.D.**, interim president emeritus, vice president emeritus for research, Samuel A. Goudsmit Distinguished University Professor of Physics, and professor of physics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Professor Neal died on May 23, 2018.

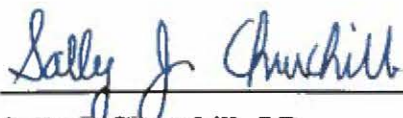
Professor Neal received his B.A. (1961) degree from Indiana University and his M.S. (1963) and Ph.D. (1966) degrees from the University of Michigan. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as a professor and chair of the Department of Physics in 1987. He served as the vice president for research (1993-97), interim president (1996-97), and director of the UM ATLAS Collaboratory Project (1997-2016).

Professor Neal had a long, distinguished career as a world-leading expert in the studies of particle spins and polarizations. He played important roles in the discoveries of the two fundamental particles in the last quarter century: the top quark in 1995 and the Higgs boson in 2012. Joining the DZero experiment when he returned to Michigan as the chair of the physics department, he participated in the discovery of the top quark discovery and observed the  $\Xi_b$  and  $\Omega_b$  baryons. Professor Neal led Michigan faculty to join the ATLAS Experiment at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, making critical contributions to the discovery of the Higgs boson. While serving on the National Science Board, he played a pivotal role in the establishment of the popular and effective Research Experiences for Undergraduates program in the U.S.

Through the work of his long and illustrious career, Professor Neal did more than research: he shaped the very field of physics. His innovations opened the door for other scientists to make crucial discoveries; his teaching and leadership inspired countless students and faculty; and his tremendous leadership shaped the University of Michigan and many other institutions. It would be difficult to overstate the lasting positive influence of Professor Neal on the world.

As we mourn the loss of our beloved colleague, we also extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Jean, and his many loving relatives and friends. The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by posthumously naming **Homer A. Neal, interim president emeritus, vice president emeritus for research, Samuel A. Goudsmit Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Physics, and professor emeritus of physics.**

**Requested by:**



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**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**  
Vice President and Secretary of the University

**June 2018**