In Memoriam of
Donald Keith Pumroy:
His Pioneering Works

ABA 2015
W. Joseph Wyatt
Roger W. McIntire
Judy G. Blumenthal
This panel discussion will memorialize the contributions to behavior analysis of
Donald Keith Pumroy
and will provide a timeline of the evolution of the field from the 1950s to the 2000s.
OVERVIEW

- Clinical and Behavioral Psychologist (degrees from Iowa, Wisconsin, Washington)
- Private Practices in Maryland and Virginia (Associates for Behaviour Change)
- Court Appointed Psychologist in Maryland
- Consulted with the Northumberland, Virginia Psychological Center
- Worked with the Maryland and Northumberland County School Systems
Don was born in Ottumwa, Iowa, 1925
Main street, Ottumwa, looked like this, when Don was born.
He checked out books from the town’s public library.
He swam in this public pool
Presenting, ABAI, 2010
Leo Walder, Don Pumroy, Judy Blumenthal, Roger McIntire
Don’s ABAI presentations, recent years

- A variety of topics
- An abiding behavioral philosophy
- An interest in social justice
- A devotion to making our lives better.
1999

“Publishing and marketing for Behavior Analysts: How to get going, publish and use distributors, media and the internet”

A workshop with Roger McIntire
2000

“Public relations for behavior analysts: Why we need it and how to promote it in your interview and public presentations”

Workshop with Roger McIntire and Judy Blumenthal

“Behavioral treatment with tobacco addicts: How behaviorists can make a difference”

Panel discussion with Judy Blumenthal & Roger McIntire
2001

“Successful job search using behavioral approach: Interviewing skills, networking and resume design.”

Workshop with Judy Blumenthal and Roger McIntire

“Road rage, telephone anxiety and family dialogue: Behavioral communication strategies when the means are restricted.”

Panel discussion with Judy Blumenthal and Roger McIntire
2003

“Behavior Analysis in a workshop titled ‘Looking back/Looking forward’”

Symposium titled “Spreading the behavioral word” With Judy Blumenthal, Roger McIntire and Joe Wyatt
2004

Discussant for a symposium titled “Applications of behavioral Analysis: Historical review of three societal problems.”

– Parenting & child abuse (Roger McIntire)
– TV Violence (Judy Blumenthal)
– The fraud of biological psychiatry (Joe Wyatt)
Also in 2004
Fenway Park, Boston
Also 2005
2007

[Image: Image of a patch celebrating the Padres 40th Anniversary, 1969-2009]
Our last game – 2011
Coors Field, Denver
2005

“Elements of learning”

Symposium with Roger McIntire & Judy Blumenthal
2007

“The influence on the voter of the radio talk shows.”

Symposium with Leo Walder, Roger McIntire and Judy Blumenthal
2008

“Analysis of the content of conservative talk radio shows.”

Symposium with Leo Walder & Judy Blumenthal
2010

“Behavior analysis and school psychology.”

Symposium with Judy Blumenthal, Roger McIntire & Leo Walder
2011

“Teaching teachers behavior analysis.”

Symposium with Judy Blumenthal & Roger McIntire
2012

“Parents teach their children how to think and behave.”

Symposium with Judy Blumenthal and Roger McIntire
2013

“Understanding and changing shooters’ behavior”

Symposium, “Spotting and stopping shooters,”
with Joe Wyatt & Roger McIntire
2014 - Chicago

“Learning as the cause of behavior.”

Symposium, “Parents, culture and shooters,” with Joe Wyatt, Roger McIntire and Judy Blumenthal.
Recent ABAI presentations

- Learning
- Teaching BA
- Classrooms
- Parenting
- Marketing BA
- Job Searching
- Radio Talk shows
- Voter behavior
- Road Rage
- Addictions
- Gun issues/shootings
With Rep. Steny Hoyer
Farewell, to a good friend. We miss you.
• Diplomate
• Director, School Psychology Program
  - Trained a generation of graduate students who are now school psychologists or clinical psychologists, many in Maryland but others throughout the country
Pumroy served both as the
• President of the Maryland Psychological Association and the
• President of the Maryland Association of School Psychologists

The only person to date to hold both positions
Pumroy served as Chairman, Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists
• Charter Member and
• Chair, Presenter, Discussant at the Association for Behavior Analysis, International, Annual Meetings From The Inception of the Association
Professor Emeritus
University of Maryland
Maintained Private Practices
In Maryland And Virginia
• Made Numerous Presentations At National Conferences
• Charter Member And Active Participant And Presenter At Maryland ABA From The Inception Of The Association
- Including A Paper On Why People Do What They Do
Guest lecture in Undergraduate and Graduate Classes

- Teaching How Behavior Is Learned (*Why People Do What They Do*)
Asked to explain the relationship between Disaster and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder for a federal agency
Pumroy was a pioneer in making the transition from research-based behavioral analysis to the application of behavioral principles in applied settings.
• Published numerous scientific articles
• The first psychologist to apply behavioral principles to a child and publish those results:
Others followed his lead, and soon behavior analysis had moved from the laboratory to wider field settings, including classrooms and mental health settings.
Pumroy’s Work Made Its Way Into Industry, Public Policy And Legislation Such As Stopping Corporal Punishment In School
1966 Developed Parent Attitude Survey
• International requests through the 2000s
• reliability test in 1994

In 1974 Stan Odell credited Don Pumroy as the first pioneer in training parents in behavior modification.

“The early 1960s took behavior modification into a variety of applied problem situations including work with parents and children. Probably the first study aimed at teaching parents the principles of behavior modification was done by Pumroy in [the 1962-1963 school year]. This study consisted of three experimental parent groups who met for 10 sessions and received lectures on behavioral principles and advice on applying these principles to specific problems. Results showed parents did learn the behavioral principles and vocabulary…. (D. K. Pumroy. A New Approach to Treating Parent-Child Problems. Paper presented at the meeting of the American Psychological Association, Chicago, September 1965.)”
Another contributions for which Pumroy is credited is toilet training. In 1978, Don and his wife Shirley Spence Pumroy authored the book “Modern Childrearing, A Behavioral Approach”
Published weekly column with Dr. Roger McIntire:

**Strategies**, in *The Early Adolescent Magazine* (T.E.A.M)
In the 1980s

Pumroy Founded The
College Park Behavior Group
Whose Mission Is To Clarify And
Disseminate Behavioral Principles and to
Foster Behavioral Research And Writing

(Group Continues)
Recent Work Focused on: The Problem of School Gun Violence, A Topic That Reflected Pumroy’s Interest In The Application of Behavior Analysis to Problems Within The Broad Culture, and
Concerned About
Consequences Of Concussions
Wrote a short story in 2010,
*Year 2037: What Happened to Football?*
2014 Citation
from
Northumberland County Chamber of Commerce
Douglas A. Lemke, President
“In 1996 Don Pumroy walked in, introduced himself and said that he was a Clinical Psychologist specializing in Education and would like to join the chamber, create a program for helping Northumberland County High School Students and connecting them with the business world as they prepared to move on after High School.”
Don was appointed member of the
• Board of Directors
• Chairperson of the Chamber’s Education Committee
• Established Scholarship Program
• Remained the Chairperson of Education Committee for over 16 years
“All of the members of the Chamber of Commerce, especially the Directors, who worked with him on a recurring basis, knew the contributions Don made and held him in the highest regard and enjoyed the sharing of ideas, the laughs and the highly spirited discussions. Don will always remain my friend and colleague and I will remember him always.”
CHARACTER

Always Demonstrated Acts Of Kindness And Of Love

- Gave bank tellers Hershey Kisses or left them at the particular window if they were busy. And left ears of corn at his neighbors’ doors
- When Don read a newspaper or magazine article that pertained to an interest someone had, he would send it to them
- When he saw children behaving appropriately in a restaurant, he would go up to the parents and tell them how well their child was behaving
- Don made strangers feel special. When he interacted with someone new - anywhere –he always made it a point to get the name of the person and used the person's name in the ensuing conversation
- Don thought globally, sharing ideas to promote love among people, and acted locally in cleaning up the Bay

Always Spoke Positively About People. Always.
History Is Never Lost
(McIntire)
- Website Under Construction
PROGRESS IS BEING MADE
(PUMROY)

In The Study And Analysis of Behavior and Its Application to Society
In Memory

• A Veteran Of The U.S. Army Air Corp. Served as 2\textsuperscript{nd} Lt. in WW-II, 1943-46, and Korean War.

• Love For Education and Science Influenced Him To Donate His Body to Science

• Concluded His Life With The Same Honor And Respect That He Lived And Received A 21 Gun Salute At The Arlington National Cemetery
In Memoriam of
Donald Keith Pumroy
1925-2014