

# JOURNAL

of the

## Tennessee Academy of Science

---

VOLUME LXII

APRIL, 1987

---

### PRESIDENT OF THE TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE FOR 1987

Dr. Gus Tomlinson is professor of biology at Tennessee State University. He joined the TSU faculty as a full professor in 1980 after an 18-year career at Peabody-Vanderbilt in Nashville.

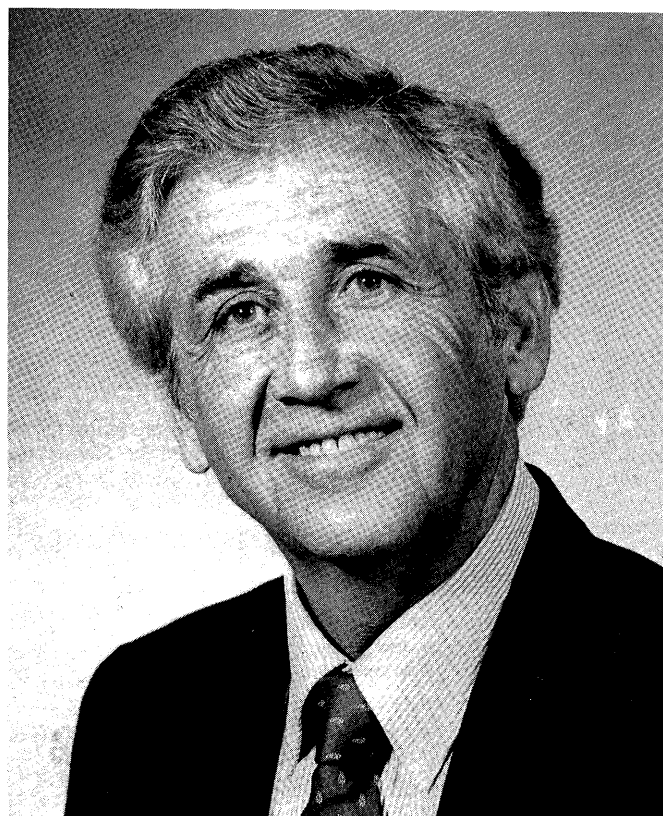
Dr. Tomlinson was born into a farm family in rural Dickson County, Tennessee and attended public schools in the area through high school. He is one of those who likes to brag about the two mile walk and 30-mile bus rides to get to school. He says that seemed easy compared to chopping bushes and following a team of mules all day in the field. After graduation from Dickson High School where he was surprised to learn that he had won the typing medal and a top mathematics award, he spent a year waiting for Uncle Sam to send his "greetings" for participation in the Korean War effort. His US Army induction came in 1953, after which time he spent two years and earned the enlisted rank of staff sergeant.

In 1955 Dr. Tomlinson enrolled at George Peabody College in Nashville as an aspiring high school mathematics teacher. He graduated with honors in 1958 earning a baccalaureate degree with a double major in mathematics and biology. During his senior year at Peabody, he was offered a scholarship to pursue graduate work in biology at Vanderbilt University where he subsequently earned an MS equivalency (1960) and a Ph.D. degree (1962).

After accepting his first teaching position as assistant professor of biology at George Peabody College for Teachers in 1962, Dr. Tomlinson was selected as an NIH research scholar for a postdoctoral program at the Swiss Federal Institute in Zurich, Switzerland. Here he worked with the inventors of the apparatus and procedures for studying biological membranes via freeze-fracture analysis in conjunction with transmission electron microscopy. In 1964 Dr. Tomlinson's "urges to teach and to return to his native Tennessee" brought him back to George Peabody College where he became professor and chairman, department of biology (1966) and later chairman of the division of science and mathematics (1968).

At Tennessee State University Dr. Tomlinson teaches pathophysiology to premedical and prenursing students and engages in sponsored research in electron microscopy under the auspices of the National Institutes of Health. His specific research interest involves a small soil amoeba which has been identified recently as an opportunistic pathogen capable of causing keratitis, meningoencephalitis and osteomyelitis in humans.

Dr. Tomlinson is a member of several professional organizations and has been honored with Science Chair



**Gus Tomlinson**

(1978) and Science Leadership (1979) awards by public school systems. He was selected among the Outstanding Educators of America (1975) and has been recognized by biographical listings in Who's Who in America (1975), the International Biographical Dictionary (1978) and Who's Who in the World (1982). He is married to the former Aline Bowman with whom he has two children, a son (Jeffrey) and daughter (Tracey).

Dr. Tomlinson has been an active supporter of the Tennessee Academy of Science for 22 years, presenting papers, serving on its executive committee and editing its official *JOURNAL* from 1970 to 1986. On January 1, 1987 he assumed the presidency of the Academy.