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Preface

This special issue is dedicated to Richard S. Varga on the occasion of his 80th birthday. His enormous scientific contributions span many fields, including matrices and linear algebra, numerical linear algebra, numerical analysis, complex analysis, and approximation theory.

Richard Varga was born in Cleveland of Hungarian-born parents in 1928. He received his B.S. in mathematics from Case Institute of Technology (now Case Western Reserve University) in 1950 and his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1954. After a few years at the Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory in Pittsburgh, he became Professor of Mathematics at Case Institute of Technology in 1960. In 1969 he moved to Kent State University as University Professor of Mathematics. At Kent, Professor Varga has been the Director (1980–1988) and Research Director (1988–present) of the Institute for Computational Mathematics. Upon his “retirement” from Kent State in 2006, Varga was named Professor Emeritus.

Varga has published over 240 papers and 7 books, many of which have become classics, including his seminal book *Matrix Iterative Analysis*. He has had 25 Ph.D. students, and he currently has 78 mathematical descendants. He received many honors, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, an Alexander von Humboldt Professorship, the Hans Schneider Prize, and two honorary doctorates. Among his many editorial contributions, we highlight his tenure as editor-in-chief of *Numerische Mathematik* (1988–2002) and of the *Electronic Transactions on Numerical Analysis* (ETNA), which he co-founded in 1993. He has been an editor of *Linear Algebra and its Applications* for over 40 years.

But these numbers and impressive credentials fail to reflect the fact that Richard has had an enormous influence on generations of mathematicians, as an organizer of conferences, as a collaborator, and as a mentor. He has made many friends over the years, who appreciate his intellect and his integrity. We are honored to have edited this volume dedicated to him.

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I had to ___in so many forms. It took me hours. Fill. I'd like everyone here to ___forward as many suggestions as possible. Put. There was a guy in the street___ our free tickets to that new quiz show.Â I had heard ___the problems the paper was facing and I heard ___one of my colleagues that the paper might be going to close. about , from. Whatever it was, it was likely ___be bad news. To. At the meeting, the editor told us ___ to tell anyone else yet, but the paper had been taken over by Ronald Morduck. Not.Â We began ___looking round for advertising agencies which had experience of our market. By. Joanne is training ___become a trapeze artist at the moment. To. All the heavy ___ (machine) in the factory has been manufactured on site. He was a very charitable man, he had a great sense of fun, he was a really very strong character who stands out in society of that time. He was great company, people often described how much they loved talking to him, and that really comes across very strongly from all the letters that his friends have left behind.Â The dictionary contains about 40,000 words and was published as two large books.Â He then wrote out the definition, and then when he'd finished it was handed over to his copyists (who we can imagine all working for hours on end) and they would copy out the slips onto one sheet of paper, and the sheet would be sent out to the printers on Fleet Street. How long did the whole process take? It took nearly ten years. Many published books have an ISBN and it is a useful measure for how productive a country's publishing industry is.[2] However, this data is not collected for all countries. It may not represent the total number of books a country has published, as not every registered ISBN is then used and as books may have multiple ISBNs.[2]. Number of ISBNs registered per country[2]. Rank. Country. 2018. 1. United States.