



Terence Kelso Thayer

October 9, 1940 - May 2, 2019

Terence Kelso Thayer passed away in Bloomington, Indiana, on May 2, 2019, at the Hearthstone Health Campus after a long illness. He was 78.

Terence was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 9, 1940, and grew up in North Vernon, Indiana. He graduated from North Vernon High School in 1958. His parents were both Indiana University graduates; his father, Dr. Benet W. Thayer, was a physician, and his mother, Edna Thayer, was a journalist and artist.

Terence received the A. B. degree summa cum laude in German at Oberlin College in 1962. While at Oberlin College, he met Diane Weiss, of Euclid, Ohio, whom he married in 1962 in Highland Heights, Ohio. Together they spent the following year in Germany while he was a Fulbright scholar. A recipient of the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, he earned his Ph.D. at Harvard University in 1967. He joined the Indiana University faculty in 1967 as an assistant professor. With the exception of a visiting appointment at the University of California at San Diego in 1972, a Humboldt research fellowship in Hamburg in 1976, and Fulbright and DAAD summer seminars in Germany in the 1980s, Thayer spent his entire career in Bloomington at Indiana University, and was promoted to associate professor in 1972 and full professor in 1983. He retired in 2004. His colleague William Rasch said of Terence that he was a “good man, a good human being. In truth, more than that can be said of no one.”

During his life, Terence was an inveterate traveler who journeyed to all seven continents, more than fifty countries, and to countless islands around the world. Together Terence and Diane enjoyed exploring new cultures, bird watching, hiking, snorkeling, and trips to places as diverse as Borneo, Greece, Antarctica, and the Bering Sea. He was a lifelong runner who completed the Bloomington Marathon in the late 1970s, with his young son Alex joining him at the end. He also enjoyed handball, art, film, music, reading, and, upon retirement, read the Odyssey in its original Greek. Another post-retirement goal was to view, in person, all of the Johannes Vermeer paintings still in existence. With his daughter, he was able to take a special trip to Turkey with Brown University alumni.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Diane Thayer, of Bloomington, Indiana; his son, Dr. Alexander Kelso Thayer, of Los Angeles, California; a daughter-in-law, Takako Thayer; his granddaughter, Kayla Thayer; and his daughter, Gwyneth Anne Thayer, of Raleigh, North

Carolina. He is also survived by his brother, Michael Thayer, of North Vernon, Indiana. He is predeceased by his sister, Nancy Thayer, and both of his parents.

His service will take place on May 8, 2019, at Allen Funeral Home in Bloomington, Indiana. The visitation is at 3:30 pm followed by a service at 5:00 pm. Memories may be shared at allencares.com.

The family would like to give special thanks to the prayer warriors who supported Terence and Diane during the last several years, especially as Diane supported her husband tirelessly through his final years and days. The family would like to thank the entire care team at Legacy Hearthstone Health Campus, especially Brandon, Bea, Kayla, and Karen; additionally, the family would like to thank Southern Care Hospice, especially Anna and Rick. Memorial donations can be given to the Monroe County YMCA Y For All Fund, for those who wish to support a local cause in memory of Terence. Alternatively, donations to the internationally active organization, Doctors without Borders, are welcome in memory of Terence: <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/support-us/explore-donation-options/give-honor-or-memory>

Events

MAY **Visitation** 03:30PM - 05:00PM

8
Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37, Bloomington, IN, US, 47401

MAY **Celebration of Life** 05:00PM

8
Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37, Bloomington, IN, US, 47401

Comments



“ Diane,

My deepest sympathy on the loss of your husband. I know it was a long good-bye, but you will have a lifetime of memories to sustain and comfort you. My condolences to your family as well as they surround you with their love and support in this difficult time.

Cheryl Engber

Chery Engber - May 12, 2019 at 06:43 PM



“ Diane, Alex, and Gwyn, my deepest sympathy on the loss of your beloved husband and father. My every memory of Terence is a good one. He was invariably kind and helpful while never tooting his own horn. I am sorry I can't be at the memorial service, but know that I, like many others, will remember him always with affection and admiration.

Judy Schroeder

Judy Schroeder - May 07, 2019 at 12:46 AM



“ Our deepest condolences to you, Diane, and the family. His intellect, gentle soul, and humanity will be remembered by all.

Natsuko Tsujimura and Stuart Davis - May 06, 2019 at 12:24 PM



“ Terence had a smile that lit up his whole face and it always brought a smile to my face. Such a sweet man. I will always treasure the memories I have of him.

Karen Turner

Karen Turner - May 03, 2019 at 03:40 PM