



Dr. Byrum E. Carter

March 3, 1922 - January 1, 2015

Dr. Byrum E. Carter, Former Vice President, Indiana University-Bloomington, age 92, passed away peacefully January 1, 2015 at Bell Trace Health and Living Center in Bloomington, Indiana. He was preceded in death by his wife Beth Carter (Peter) and is survived by his children: Terry Elizabeth Hedrick and Keith Madison Carter (wife Sheila Carter) and two grandsons: Timothy Scott Hedrick (wife: Katherine Karakas) and Kenneth Byrum Carter. He was known for his patience, his humor and his ability to deal with difficult situations. He will be missed by his family and friends.

Born March 3, 1922 in Oklahoma Territory, Byrum Carter's life was dominated by a devotion to scholarship and Indiana University. He began work on his B.A. at Frederick Jr. College in Oklahoma with his studies interrupted by service to the War Labor Board. Following his discharge he continued his undergrad education at Oklahoma University eventually obtaining his doctorate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1951. He had already accepted a position on the faculty of Indiana University in the Department of Political Science at a time when large numbers of veterans were seeking education throughout the country. He achieved full professorship in 1960 and began what was

to be a long career in the administrative ranks of the university - Acting Dean of Faculties, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (1966), Chancellor of Indiana University-Bloomington (1969). The Chancellor position was eventually retitled Vice-President of Indiana University - Bloomington. He oversaw the university during a time of substantial student unrest nationally in the 1960s and 70s concerning the Vietnam War and was seen as a peacemaker on campus.

Byrum E. Carter carried on his scholarship with publication of *The Office of Prime Minister* in 1956 (reviewed by the *New York Times*) and a Faculty Research fellowship for studying the theories of John Stuart Mill. He was devoted to teaching and received the Fredric Bachman Lieber Award for Teaching in 1957. After resigning from administrative duties in June 1975 he continued to teach as a member of the Department of Political Science and almost always taught a course while he was in administration. He retired from the Department of Political Science in 1986 as Professor Emeritus and more than 30 years of service to the university. Most of his life he read a book a day, wearing a path back and forth to the IU Library.

A date for a celebration of his life will be announced at a later time. In lieu of flowers the family has requested that donations be made in his name to the I.U. Foundation.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old Highway 37 is handling the arrangements and online condolences may be sent to the family at www.allenfuneralhome.org.

Tribute Wall

DH

“ I was a student of Dr. Carter in 1980 for an honors freshmen course in politics and economics. I have not thought about him in years. Just today I was reflecting on my undergraduate experience and the professors who made a difference in my life. Dr. Carter came to mind immediately, I Googled him, and discovered that he has passed. I learned a lot in his class, about government and about hard work and how to live a life. My condolences to his family, who can take solace in knowing that he positively touched so many lives.

Daniel E. Hall (professor and chair at Miami University)

Daniel E. Hall - January 14, 2016 at 08:29 PM

TI

“ I came to IU as a new assistant professor in 1969, and I got to know Byrum because of our common interest in billiards. He was a delightful man, and a wise one who added the benefits of scholarship to a native good will. He represents in my mind a generation of wonderful gentleman/professors, such as Ernie Campaigne, Bob Walden, Harrison Schull and others of those years. Many years after Byrum left administration, he quipped, "Back in my administration--otherwise known as 'the good old days.'" He was right. I asked him once if there had been a ceremony when he became chancellor. He said that there had been a procession. I said I found that remarkable. "Yes," he answered, "I put all the things in my desk drawers and files from my office in Woodburn Hall in two carton boxes, and then my secretary and I each carried a box over to Bryan Hall."

Timothy Long - October 26, 2015 at 04:02 PM

JE

“ *Byrum was an excellent colleague and a gentleman. I had the pleasure of getting to know him after arriving at IU in 1981. He had the gift of remaining calm when others around him were getting excited. A voice of reason.*

Jeffrey Hart - October 26, 2015 at 04:02 PM

MI

“ *I am very sad to hear of this man Dr Carters he will be missed very much and may god help his family heal.*

Michele crail - October 26, 2015 at 04:02 PM

PE

“ *I am very sad to hear of Dr. Carter's death.*

As a student at IU in the early 1980s I took every undergraduate course that Dr. Carter taught and also had the honor of serving with him as an undergraduate teaching assistant. He was was among the very best teachers I had at IU. His friendly, open manner, sense of humor, and his socratic teaching style served as a model for my own college teaching. His wisdom and principled approach to difficult circumstances (in class he often spoke of the political dilemmas he face while in administration at IU) also greatly influenced me. I have often asked myself "what would Carter do"? He was a teacher one wanted always wanted to do one's best for in response to his high standards, obvious dedication, and his love of learning.

Peter Wiley - October 26, 2015 at 04:02 PM

LR

“ Terry,
I noticed in the paper that your Dad passed last week and just wanted you to know how sorry I was to see that. I was out of town when the service for your Mom was held, so I was hoping to see you at your Dad's service. You may not even remember who I am..... I lived across the street from you when we were really young kids on Indiana Avenue. My parents are Harold and Dottie Gibson. My Dad passed away 6 years ago and Mom is still living in our house on Arlington Rd. I married Steve Rollins 9 years ago (my first marriage), proving it's never too late to live happily ever after. When all the dust settles, perhaps we could meet for lunch or dinner to catch up.
Again, I am really sorry to hear about your Dad. I really liked him!
Linda

Linda (Gibson) Rollins - October 26, 2015 at 04:02 PM

CN

“ To the family of Dr. Carter,

I was saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Carter. I worked with him as a student representative on many of the committees of the College and University back in the late 60's-early 70's. I always found him extremely kind and thoughtful in all my interactions. He truly cared about the students. I remember talking with him when there were student protests on campus and his abiding concern was the safety of the students. And, he always made time to meet with students when they had questions about the university or their own careers. He will forever be fondly remembered.

Please know that you and yours are in my thoughts and prayers.
Deepest sympathy, Clarine

Clarine Nardi Riddle - October 26, 2015 at 04:02 PM

PA

“ *My first memories of IU include early morning coffee and conversation about current events with Byrum and others in the Ballantine faculty lounge. This was in the mid-1960s before the political scientists were exiled to Woodburn, when Elvis Stahr was the IU president, Lyndon Johnson was in the White House, and Vietnam was just heating up. Many of us were young, overly idealistic, and not very well informed in those days. Byrum, in contrast, was not only widely versed in worldly matters, but the soul of wisdom and patience with his younger colleagues. We valued his presence then, and shall miss him now.*

Paul Kuznets - October 26, 2015 at 04:02 PM