



## Charles Jelavich

November 15, 1922 - April 23, 2013

Charles Jelavich age 90 of Bloomington passed away Tuesday morning April 23, 2013 at Meadowood Health Pavilion. He was born on November 15, 1922 in Mountain View, California to Martin and Katrina Duganzich Jelavich. Charles graduated from Mountain View High School in 1940, and earned a BA from the University of California at Berkeley in 1944. There he met Barbara Brightfield, and they married in September 1944. Charles served in the United States Army from 1944 to 1946, the last year stationed in post war Berlin.

After his military service, Charles returned to the University of California at Berkeley; in 1949 he completed his doctorate in History and joined the faculty there. In 1961 Charles and Barbara Moved to Bloomington, where they both became faculty members in the History Department at Indiana University. For the next thirty-two years they taught courses there on East European history. Based on years of research in Europe, they wrote numerous books, either singly or jointly, on various aspects of Balkan history; the works by Charles focused on nationalist movements and ideologies in that region. Their two sons followed them into academics, with one also becoming an historian.

Charles was preceded in death by his parents; his two brothers, Lawrence and William; and his wife Barbara, who died in 1995.

Charles is survived by his two sons, Mark Jelavich and wife Janet of Maryville, Missouri, and Peter Jelavich of Baltimore, Maryland; two grandchildren, Abigail Jelavich and husband Kerry Poppa, of San Jose, California, and Michael Jelavich of St. Louis, Missouri.

Charles is also survived by his companion of recent years, Marian Armstrong, of Bloomington.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday April 26, 2013 at 11:00AM at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church. Fr. Thomas Kovatch will preside. Charles will be laid to rest next to his wife Barbara in Santa Clara, California, on Friday May 3, 2013.

Visitation will be held Thursday April 26, 2013 from 6:00PM until 8:00PM at Allen Funeral Home 4155 South Old Highway 37.

Memorial contributions may be made in Charles's name to the IU History Department C/O The Indiana University Foundation, P.O.Box 500, Bloomington, Indiana 47408, and online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.allenfuneralhome.org](http://www.allenfuneralhome.org).

# Tribute Wall

PJ

“ *Mark and Peter:*

*Your father (and mother) were, as you know, deep, deep influences on many, many people. They gave birth to our field, gave life to East European studies through their careful and caring nurture of the next generation of scholars, and provided role models (before such things were even conceived of) of the teacher/scholar that not only inspired us but will continue to influence countless others to come. Sa va fie tarana usoara.*

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**Paul and Jean Michelson** - October 26, 2015 at 04:11 PM

PA

“ *Dear Marian and Family Jelavich, Please accept the deepest condolences from Fabian Schmidt and me. Charles and Barbara were my professors and mentors in ways that went beyond my years at IU. I highly valued his witty and informed correspondence over the years and greatly enjoyed meeting with him and Marian for good times in San Jose and Prague. It is an understatement to say that he will be sorely missed.*

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**Patrick Moore** - October 26, 2015 at 04:11 PM

PA

“ *Dear Mark and Peter, Please accept my condolences on the loss of your father, Charles. I remain indebted to him and to Barbara for their unusual example of principled scholarship combined with common sense and good humor. It was wonderful to have faculty mentors who genuinely cared about their students and who advocated on our behalf. I also remember the many times they spoke of you two -- always with humor and pride. I continue to appreciate their impact on my life. Sincerely, Paul Hiemstra*

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**Paul Hiemstra** - October 26, 2015 at 04:11 PM

AB

“ My condolences to the family of this brilliant scholar who has inspired many along with myself. Although I have never met him, I used his textbooks frequently to pursue my study in history. His brilliance, objectivity lives through his work and his children. God bless your family for your work and contribution to the world.

*Abdullah Islamovic (York University, Toronto, ON Canada)*

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**Abdullah Islamovic** - October 26, 2015 at 04:11 PM

PP

“ Please accept my deepest sympathy. Charles was a fine man and dedicated mentor to his students, a true Doktorvater. I will always be grateful for his guidance in my work and career, and I owe him a great debt. He will be remembered with respect and affection.

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**Philip Pajakowski** - October 26, 2015 at 04:11 PM

MF

“ Dear Jelavich Family,

*Words cannot express the deep sadness and sense of loss I felt when I heard of Charles' passing. He was a humane, funny man whose warmth and intelligence will remain with me all my life. He and Barbara were the reason I chose to become a historian. Their mentorship was everything for me and I was so very lucky to have them accept me as one of their own students.*

*Please accept my sincere condolences. Mari*

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**Mari Firkatian** - October 26, 2015 at 04:11 PM

JI

“ Charles was a great teacher and mentor, as well as a funny, warm, and wonderful person. He will be sorely missed. My condolences and prayers to Mark, Peter, and the whole family.

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**Jim Krokhar** - October 26, 2015 at 04:11 PM

ST

“ To the Jelavich family, I am so, so sorry for your loss. My thoughts are with you.

*Charles was my teacher, my mentor, my encouragement. He was a great scholar who always had time for his students, and many of us would not be where we are, were it not for him. I am so thankful for all his advice, his insight, and his passion for teaching. He became a cherished friend.*

*Charles, you blessed us in so many ways.*

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**Stan Markotich** - October 26, 2015 at 04:11 PM

CH

“ Dear Family Jelavich and Marian,

*Please accept my condolences on Charlie's passing. I am in Dubrovnik now, so far away but so close, and unable to make the trip to Bloomington to express my sympathies in person. I admired Charlie, and he was an inspiration to me in his work in history and his decency and kindness and enthusiasm as a man and a teacher. I will remember him with great fondness and try to live up to the example he set for me, and for so many others.*

*Chuck Sudetic*

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**Chuck Sudetic** - October 26, 2015 at 04:11 PM

RS

“ Dear Mark and Peter--Words cannot begin to convey our sadness to hear of Charles's passing. Outside of our immediate families, Charles and Barbara were the two most important people in our lives. There isn't a day that goes by that we don't think about them. We were so lucky to have known Charles, having him as a mentor and an inspiration and long after leaving Bloomington remaining in regular contact with him. When he spoke to our students in 2008 in Missouri not only was that one of the highlights of their education (something one reiterated to us a year ago), but it reminded us that in the world of ideas he was (and will remain) one of the giants. We will miss him dearly and our thoughts go out to you and your families. Rick and Sue

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**Rick and Sue Frucht** - October 26, 2015 at 04:11 PM

MA

“ Deepest sympathies to Charles' family, and to Marian. He was a brilliant, funny man, and a giant in the scholarly world. I didn't study with Charles and Barbara, as they had retired by the time I came to IU, but knew Charles through REEI. I so enjoyed his visits to Stanford when I worked there, especially when we would visit Wayne Vucinich together.

*Sending thoughts and prayers to you all.*

*Yours,*

*Mary Dakin  
(IU PoliSci PhD 1998)*

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**Mary Dakin** - October 26, 2015 at 04:11 PM

BF

“ Dear Mark and Peter, I am so sorry for your loss. Charles and Barbara were two of the architects of my happy life, along with my parents. I've been out of touch, because I have lost both parents in the past six months, but I think of both your mom and dad every day, and I always will. I can't attend the funeral, because my mother's own memorial service is tomorrow, but I will be thinking of you and will write you a letter about Charles in the next couple weeks. God bless all of you.

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**Brigit Farley** - October 26, 2015 at 04:11 PM

HC

*Professor Jelavich was my first. Assignment as a Teaching Asst at IU! And shaped my career ever since.*

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**henry chambers** - March 31, 2022 at 08:50 PM

NI

“ Please accept my deepest condolences on the passing of Charles. He and Barbara were great, great people and wonderful mentors. I will always remember Charles for his common sense approach to everything and his ability to get the most out of everyone. Neka pociva u miru božjem!

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**Nick Novosel** - October 26, 2015 at 04:11 PM

MK

“ Our prayers and condolences to the Jelavich family.

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**Mike and Kathy Powers** - October 26, 2015 at 04:11 PM

TC

“ We would like to express our deep sympathy concerning the passing of Charles Jelavich. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones during this difficult time. He was an outstanding scholar and a very gracious and kind human being. We are very sorry we will not be able to attend his visitation or service because we are leaving town Thursday morning.

*Tom and Claire Nisonger*

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**Tom and Claire Nisonger** - October 26, 2015 at 04:11 PM