



John Payne Dyson

April 13, 1939 - February 23, 2019

John P. Dyson, 79, passed away 23 February 2019 at Meadowood, Bloomington, Indiana.

Born 13 April 1939, Batesville, Mississippi to Payne Dyson and Louise (Allen) Dyson.

Survivors include Sister, Virginia Meeker of Mission, Kansas, Brother, Stuart and Lil Dyson of Olive Hill, Kentucky, former wives Janet (Powell) Dillman of Bloomington, Indiana, Anita Rozlapa, Bloomington, Indiana, Son, Terence Dyson and Jeannie Waite of Fort Davis, Texas, Daughter, Jennifer and David Croft of Bloomington, Son, Christopher and Amy Dyson of Sidney, Nebraska. 8 Granddaughters, 4 Great Granddaughters, 4 Nephews.

John received his B. A. at Kansas State University and an M. A. and Ph. D, from the University of Kansas. He taught language and literature in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Indiana University in Bloomington for 38 years. He established the undergrad and graduate Portuguese programs there. In the decade before his retirement from IU, spurred by childhood summers spent in Mississippi, John developed a research interest in Chickasaw language and in that nation's ethnohistory prior to its removal from Mississippi to Indian Territory in the 1830s. His publications and conference presentations in those and related fields drew the notice of

officials of the Chickasaw Nation's Division of History and Culture. In 2006 John was accorded the tribe's Heritage Preservation Award, and in 2007 he was invited to join the Department of Chickasaw Language as a participant in its Language Revitalization Program.

John prepared instructional materials and taught adult education courses on Chickasaw grammar for the next six years in Ada, Oklahoma. While there, he and his Chickasaw partner in crime, dear friend, Jerry Imotichey, also conducted classes in the Native American Studies Program at East Central University.

In 2013, John returned to Indiana still under contract with the Chickasaw Nation. He contributed two articles a year to The Journal of Chickasaw History and Culture, writing a definitive book, The Early Chickasaw Homeland: Origins, Boundaries and Society and continued to write for the Chickasaw Press.

Father, grandfather, dedicated friend, mentor, farmer, BBQ restaurant owner, published in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, Publisher/Editor of The American Hispanist, what didn't he do? His intellect, energy and drive will be missed. Most importantly John was humble and demonstrated to friends and family redemption and repentance by living it.

A celebration of life will be held at 2:00pm Saturday, March 16, 2019 at the Federal Room at the IU Memorial Union. A private family burial will be held in Paducah, Kentucky. Cremation Rites have been accorded.

In lieu of flowers the family request that memorial contributions may be made to a charity of the donors choice.

You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence to the family at www.allencares.com.

Tribute Wall



“ Thank you John for the wonderful memories. Thank you sharing your time and the great suggestion to take the grandkid to see the Chickasaw Cultural Center. The Chickasaw elder told us today that good by is not in their language. They say anowa chipisala' cho - until we meet again. So my good friend - anowa chipisala' cho. Ken

Teresa N Ken Crevier - March 07, 2019 at 06:35 PM

TD

Thanks 🙏 Teresa!

terence dyson - March 11, 2019 at 05:19 PM

TD

And Ken!

terence dyson - March 11, 2019 at 05:20 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Teresa N Ken Crevier - March 07, 2019 at 05:30 PM

TM

“ Tommy, Jennifer, And Jared Mattingly lit a candle in memory of John Payne Dyson



Tommy, Jennifer, and Jared Mattingly - February 27, 2019 at 04:08 PM

TD

thanks so much. Terry and Dyson family

Terence Dyson - February 28, 2019 at 02:25 PM

LV

“ *My condolences to your family and my prayers are with you during this time of sorrow. I enjoyed working with Professor Dyson during my years in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. He was very witty and I enjoyed working with him. A great loss...*

Linda (Prince) Vaught - February 26, 2019 at 06:00 PM

LR

“ *I just saw the notice of the passing of your Dad and wanted to tell you how sorry I am. He was just a figure who seemed bigger than life and those few times I was involved in meetings were always productive and entertaining. When I had you in second grade the paren conferences with your parents was the one I always looked forward to. I am thinking of you and wanted to send my condolences.*

*Linda Rollins (Gibson)
2nd grade teacher*

Linda J Rollins - February 26, 2019 at 11:20 AM

TD

Thanks Linda! We love and remember your spunky self!

Terence Dyson - February 27, 2019 at 05:17 AM

TD

From Warren Smith:

https://www.jacquielawson.com/ecard/pickup/r2f4b0c6485b0402ba254c23source=jl999&utm_medium=internal_email&utm_source=pickup&utm_car

Terence Dyson - February 28, 2019 at 02:20 PM



“ *Miss you Pop.* ”

Terence Dyson - February 26, 2019 at 07:24 AM