



Dr. John William Ryan

August 12, 1929 - August 6, 2011

Dr. John William Ryan, age 81, of Bloomington passed away early Saturday morning August 6, 2011 at IU Health Bloomington Hospital with his loving family by his side. He was born August 12, 1929 in Chicago, Illinois to Leonard John and Mary Maxine Mitchell Ryan. Dr. Ryan received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Utah. He then came to Indiana University and spent two years in Bangkok, Thailand at Thammasat University as a research fellow with Indiana University's Agency for International Development. Upon his return to Bloomington, he went on to complete both his Masters and PhD at Indiana University. Dr. Ryan began his professional career first as an instructor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison before moving into university administration in various posts. His appointments and positions included; the Secretary of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Vice President of Arizona State University, the University of Massachusetts at Boston Founding Chancellor, the regional campuses Vice President for Indiana University, sixteen and a half years as President of Indiana University from 1971 until 1987, interim President of Florida Atlantic and the University of Maryland at Baltimore, two years in Washington DC with the Agency for International Development, and lastly with the State University of New York Systems as Chancellor. Dr. Ryan leaves behind his wife of

62 years D. Patricia Ryan of Bloomington; daughter Kathleen Elynne Ryan Acker of Bloomington; son Kevin Dennis Mitchell Ryan and his wife Shirley of South Lyon, Michigan; grandchildren Ryan Keith Acker of North Aurora, Illinois, Monica Acker Futrell and her husband Adam of Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, Kristin M Ryan of Toledo, Ohio, Kelly Ann Ryan of Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, Kyle Scott Ryan of Eugene, Oregon, a sister, Patricia M. Hallagan of Bloomington, sister Maureen E. Avery of DelRay Beach, Florida, sister Mary M. Haise of Louisville, Kentucky, as well as many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, a son Kerrick C. Ryan, a brother Leonard E. Ryan and a sister Ellen T. Amlung. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on his birthday, Friday August 12, 2011 at 11:00AM at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church where he and wife Pat were long time members. Visitation for Dr. Ryan will be held at Allen Funeral Home 4155 South Old Highway 37 on Thursday August 11, 2011 from 3:00PM until 7:00PM. Memorial contributions may be made in Dr. Ryan's memory to The John W. Ryan Fellowship Fund with the School of SPEA at Indiana University; Polish Studies at Indiana University; Hungarian Chair at Indiana University, all in care of the Indiana University Foundation, PO Box 500 Bloomington, Indiana 47408; the Sister Henrita Fund at Loyola High School, in Mankato, Minnesota; or the IU Health Bloomington Hospital Home Health and Hospice Program. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.allenfuneralhome.org.

Tribute Wall

JA

“ Mrs. Ryan and family, Have just learned today, 8/25, of Dr. Ryan's passing. He has been a great inspiration to me in Kappa Sigma and my life in general. He came to our Beta Lambda Chapter at UGA twice to participate as our main Speaker and was so loved by everyone who met him. At meetings of all types for years, I would seek him out to dine with and enjoy his wisdom and Brotherly love, he is still one of my Best Brothers.

My sincere condolences, Mrs. Ryan, he was a great man to me and my family.

Jim Peters, 2240 Simontton Bridge Rd., Watkinsville, GA. 30677

James Peters - October 26, 2015 at 04:23 PM

BO

“ Dr. Ryan was a gentle giant, and I feel so fortunate to have known him as a Friend and Brother in Kappa Sigma Fraternity. He was the epitome of the ideals of the Star and Crescent. Sadly, our Fraternity no longer has leaders of his caliber. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him, but his memory and works will be cherished by many more.

A.E.K.D.B. Brother Ryan.

Boyd Austin - October 26, 2015 at 04:23 PM

JE

“ Mrs. Ryan and family,

Apparently my earlier message did not pass electronic muster and was blocked. I trust you will receive this one.

Doc was one of the finest men and friends I ever knew. I will never forget the times we spent on Kappa Sigma business and in your homes in Bloomington. He was a great, great man and his presence will certainly enhance the atmosphere in the great place upstairs.

May God bless you all.

*Jeff A. Crow, Jr.
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Jeff Crow - October 26, 2015 at 04:23 PM

DO

“ Dear Ryan family,
I was sad to hear of Dr. Ryan's passing. Unlike many others whose lives he touched, I didn't know Dr. Ryan from his time as a university president or professor, but did get to know him over the last couple of years as one of the John W. Ryan Fellows at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at IU. He was such a kind man, and always interesting to talk to; he was always someone you could learn so much from, even years after his retirement from education. I will always remember him not only for his role in creating the graduate program of study that I recently completed, but also for his legacy that allowed me to attend Indiana University as a Ryan Fellow. May all of God's peace and blessings be with you during this time.

*Douglas Chapel
Indiana University MPA '11
John W. Ryan Fellow 2009-2011*

Douglas Chapel - October 26, 2015 at 04:23 PM

ZA

“ *The trustees of the American University of Palestine Project and its FANUES Foundation, in the US and Palestine, express their deep sorrow at the loss of Dr. John Ryan.*

Dr. Ryan spearheaded the work to establish the AUP-FANUES project in occupied Palestine. He was instrumental in garnering support from prominent members of the US Congress, the Palestinian Authority and the consortium of IU-PU and SUNY universities.

Dr. Ryan's commitment to peace through education will remain alive in the memory of those who witnessed his work to help the Palestinians achieve peace and prosperity through The American University of Palestine. He truly understood the importance of their need to catch up with American science and technology.

On behalf of the trustees of the AUP-FANUES we extend our sympathy to Dr. Ryan's family. Their grief is shared by us, here and abroad.

*For AUP/FANUES Trustees
Zahi Masri, MD, Louisville, KY*

Zahi Masri - October 26, 2015 at 04:23 PM

EC

“ *My deepest sympathy to Mrs. Ryan and Family.*

I will very much miss Dr. Ryan's hugs during various IU events. The last time I saw him, before commencement in May, he apologized for not getting up to hug me -- he was weak, but we managed. I have known him from the time he was President, and he was always friendly and kind even to people in lower ranks.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the viewing and funeral, but will say a prayer for him and the family. May he rest in peace.

With very best wishes, Edda Callahan

Edda Callahan - October 26, 2015 at 04:23 PM

JO

“ I am sad to write this note, as I am sorry for the loss of Great Uncle John. I will always remember his wise words, sense of humor, and apparent fluency in Latin (made evident to me by sitting next to him in mass). May he rest in peace.

with grief,

Sauerkraut

Joe Gerber - October 26, 2015 at 04:23 PM

EC

“ All of the Caldwell clan send their condolences and heartfelt wishes to your family during this time of loss. We were honored to know John Ryan and have appreciated all he has done to make the world a better place!

Edwin & Pauline Caldwell in Bloomington
Elaine Caldwell & Philip Emmi in Salt Lake City

Elaine Caldwell Emmi - October 26, 2015 at 04:23 PM

CH

“ Mrs. Ryan and the members of the Ryan family. Dr. Ryan was an amazing man. I will always remember his kind and gentle demeanor, his willingness to speak and inspire others with his words and his great sense of humor. I consider myself fortunate having known him and will miss him. So few people approach life with his finesse and nobility. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Chad Gebhardt - October 26, 2015 at 04:23 PM

MA

“ Dear Pat and family,
Although you haven't been to Pentwater in a number of years, we are all grieving with you over John's passing. What a wonderful life he had-so giving and caring, but also just fun to be with. We will lift our glasses in a toast to John at the next sunset evening

Maggie Calkins - October 26, 2015 at 04:23 PM

MI

“ Dear Mrs. Ryan and members of the Ryan family, My thoughts are prayers are with each of you today. It was with great sadness that I learned of the passing of my friend and Brother John W. Ryan. Many years ago, he placed great faith in me when he asked me to serve as the Executive Director of our beloved Fraternity. He was a great mentor and teacher to me, and I valued his friendship, guidance and wisdom tremendously. He offered words of encouragement that were inspiring and which built confidence. He touched the lives of thousands of our members through his leadership and love for Kappa Sigma. His legacy lives on in the hearts of each of us who knew him and who had the opportunity to share the bonds of our Brotherhood with him on so many occasions. I will miss him so very much. The Brothers of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity mourn with you today. I have not known a more kind or thoughtful person. God Bless you,
Mitchell B. Wilson-Executive Director-Kappa Sigma Fraternity

Mitchell Wilson - October 26, 2015 at 04:23 PM

JO

“ John was many things to many people, however, I believe that most importantly he was a model for many to follow. He was a gentleman, very genuine and had real interest and concern for others. His leadership of IU raised it'S standing in the community of universities and in the choices made by it's students.
Our deepest go out to Mrs Ryan and all the family. Another bright light has faded.

Joe Toussaint - October 26, 2015 at 04:23 PM

BF

“ Dear Pat and Family, I will never forget the the time Stan saw John at your home in Fort Myers as we passed playing golf, President Ryan to the time to talk with Stan and in the later years we so enjoyed our dinners with the two of you while we all enjoyed Florida. His stories that he shared with us and the Springers were fabulous and for these special moments with the two of you, we feel so blessed! Dr. Ryan was a special IU President and thank you for returning to Bloomington and sharing your wisdom and friendship with the IU family. Pat, I send you many hugs and prayers as you grieve, cope and heal in the months ahead. May God wrap his arms around you and give you peace. God Bless. xo Becky Fox

Becky Fox - October 26, 2015 at 04:23 PM

JL

“ I was saddened to hear of Dr. Ryan's passing. I was student at IU from 1969 until graduating in 1973. When he assumed the presidency, a calmness came over Indiana that we needed at that unsettled time. He was a fair man who was a true leader. Thank you for sharing him with all of us.

Jan Lauer Roland - October 26, 2015 at 04:23 PM

JO

“ Dear Mrs. Ryan and family, Dr. Ryan touched my life profoundly. I met him as a freshman in the winter of 1973, when he came to my dorm for a talk. I complained about getting lousy basketball tickets, and that next game he came and sat with me in our bad seats. For the rest of my time at IU, he took time to talk with me regularly and served as my mentor. He continued to stay in touch with me after I graduated in 1976. He made such a difference in my life. I never forgot how he took so much time with just one student. After all these years, I still feel his influence. I am so sad to hear of his passing. He was a great and good and kind man. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

John Farrell - October 26, 2015 at 04:23 PM

PG

“ Dear Pat and family, We were so sorry to learn of John's passing. It meant a lot to our family that you and John came to his Aunt Maureen's two major birthday celebrations and also went to visit her in KC before she passed away. It's obvious that family meant a lot to all of you. We are so glad we had the opportunity to spend some time with you both in FL last spring. We send our deepest sympathy to all of you. May the grace of God and the deep love of family help you through this very difficult time. Our love to all of you.

Sincerely,

Pat and Gail Sullivan

Pat and Gail Sullivan - October 26, 2015 at 04:23 PM

JP

“ Dear Pat, Kathleen and family,

Patsy and I are so sincerely sad at hearing the news of Dr. Ryan's passing. Like so very many, he has made a lasting impression on our lives. Please accept our sincere sympathy, and know that our thoughts and prayers are with you.

As Dr. Ryan knew, he was a great mentor and encourager to me during my tenure at IU (2006 to the present), as the Senior Associate Chair in the Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies, and Executive Director of Bradford Woods.

He and I also shared the fact that we were members of the administration and faculty at Arizona State University. I shall always cherish the brief time I was given to share my life with him and for his wise, thoughtful counsel and friendship. He amazed me with his wisdom, compassion, and willingness to engage in our relationship despite his lingering health issues during these past few years.

As others have said, by the Grace of our Lord, "we will be reunited soon in the realm of eternal Hope." We will be with you Friday.

May the Lord bless, comfort and keep you all.

Our sincere regards,

John and Patsy Koenig

John and Patsy Koenig - October 26, 2015 at 04:23 PM

PA

“ Dear Mrs. Ryan and family,

I was SO sad to hear of Dr. Ryan's passing. I have such wonderful memories of both of you. Remember how you let me park my mom's car in front of the presidential mansion, and how you took me inside and showed me your puppies? You two meant so much to me during my four years at IU. I have such fond memories of both you two and IU. I know my mom and dad both loved you two dearly, and you were lifetime friends for both of them. I will be thinking of you and praying for your entire family during this hard time.

*Love,
Pam Kampen Mayes*

Pam Kampen/Mayes - October 26, 2015 at 04:23 PM

MI

“ Dear Mrs. Ryan and family,

As Dr. Ryan knows, he was a great mentor and encourager throughout my collegiate years in Bloomington (1980-84) and into my career. He amazed me in his willingness to engage in a relationship with me despite my rather immature status in life when he was tackling such monumental issues of running a MAJOR university. Even after his retirement, he willingly kept in touch and was a reference for me at many turns in my career from broadcasting to working with Special Olympics to moving into full-time vocational ministry. Regrettably, we had planned to meet in Sanibel a couple of years ago and the timing didn't work out. We will miss him, but by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, we will be reunited soon in the realm of eternal Hope. I hope to be with you for the birthday/life/memorial celebration on Friday...two of my life counselors Tom Carnegie (February) and now Dr. John six months later have gone HOME. May the Lord bless, comfort and keep you. With loving regards, Michael J. Minich

Michael Minich - October 26, 2015 at 04:23 PM