



Russell Louis Pfohl

December 26, 1933 - December 21, 2023

Russell Louis Pfohl (Russ) passed away on December 21, 2023. Russ was born on December 26, 1933. He grew up on his family's ranch in southwest Montana. Russ graduated as valedictorian of his class from Powell County High School in 1952. He attended the University of Montana where he studied French and European Literature. Russ spent two years in Niece, France on a Fulbright Scholarship and completed his doctorate in French Literature at Johns Hopkins University in Maryland. After teaching for two years at the University of California - Davis, Russ accepted a position on the faculty of the French and Italian Department at Indiana University. Russ settled in Bloomington in 1965, and devoted his life to teaching and advocating for IU students. Russ is survived by his sister Dorothy Pfohl Balkovetz (Birmingham, AL) and her family.

Russ was a true and treasured friend to many in the IU and Bloomington communities. After retiring from teaching at IU, Russ served as a student advocate at Indiana University for fifteen years. He touched the lives of hundreds of students who needed a mentor and guide to overcome challenges and succeed. Russ was also a devoted aficionado of film, especially Hollywood's Golden Age and was a voracious reader of everything worth reading.

His generous soul and kind nature will be greatly missed.

“Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. And the third is to be kind.” Henry James

Arrangements are pending at Allen Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, friends are asked to honor Russ' memory by making a contribution to a local early education fund, Monroe Smart Start at the Bloomington Monroe County Community Foundation, 100 S. College Ave. Suite 240; Bloomington, IN 47404-5163 www.monroesmartstart.org

Tribute Wall

JB

“ Russ was without doubt the greatest teacher I ever had. I learned so much about literature, film, about which we had endless discussions. He visited me and my wife when we had rented a house in the south of France. He was a gentle soul and will be sorely missed. Joel Block

Joel Block - February 01, 2024 at 11:31 PM

JS

“ Russ Pfohl was one of the kindest people I have ever met. Back in the 1980s, he wrote the newsletter for French and Italian alumni, and I had the pleasure of working with him. When I moved from the alumni office to the business school, Russ came to my new office bearing a box of Godiva chocolates. He walked everywhere and had a smile for everyone he met.
Judy Schroeder

Judy Schroeder - January 04, 2024 at 02:10 PM

HO

“ I was a grad student in the French department at IU in the 1980's. Prof Pfohl was a wonderful professor and very helpful to us all. He danced at my wedding!

Helene Ossipov - December 28, 2023 at 05:44 PM