



## Theodore Robert Deppe

September 2, 1921 - July 5, 2013

Theodore Robert Deppe, 91, died peacefully after a short illness, surrounded by family and friends. Ted worked for 34 years at Indiana University and was chairman of the Department of Parks and Recreation for 21 years.

Born in Baraboo, Wisconsin, on September 2, 1921, he was a member of the 1941 NCAA Championship basketball team. In February 1943, due to a basketball injury, he was turned down when he tried to enlist to serve his country. He went to another recruitment center and was accepted, and though he had never been in a plane in his life, he became a pilot in the Army Air Force. In June, while learning to fly a B-24 in Montgomery, Alabama, 2nd Lt. Deppe met Alice Woodbourne Minot who was visiting her college roommate. They married on September 2, 1943, in Boise, Idaho. Two months later, he was sent to Italy where he flew 27 missions over Germany and Austria.

After the war, he earned B.S. and M.S. degrees at the University of Wisconsin. He became Assistant Superintendent of Recreation in Beloit, Wisconsin, and then first Superintendent of Recreation for a newly created department in Superior, Wisconsin. In 1953, upon completion of his Doctor of Recreation degree at Indiana

University, he was invited to join the faculty there "for a year or two" and stayed on at IU until his retirement in 1987.

As chairman, Ted assembled a team of top professionals in the field of parks and recreation. He co-authored *Recreation in American Life*, a textbook used in many university programs. He was a founding editor of the *Journal of Parks and Recreation Administration*. He served on the NRA National Advisory Committee on Recreation, Training, and Placement of Recreation Personnel, was elected President of the Society of Park and Recreation Educators (1967), and served as a member of the NRPA Board of Trustees (1968-1971). He also was President of the IPRA (1970), served with other department chairs in the College and University Recreation Association, and was a founding member of the American Academy of Park and Recreation Administration. He was co-founder and head of the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Foundation.

Ted and Alice raised four children in Bloomington, IN, with summers spent in Wareham, MA. He kept in close contact with his children and grandchildren with multiple Skype talks weekly and sometimes daily. One highlight in his life was a Fulbright Scholarship enabling him to spend six months in New Zealand with professionals at Lincoln College, where he helped establish a recreation curriculum, and made many lifelong friendships.

After retiring from Indiana University, Ted continued to serve as President of the Bloomington Parks Foundation. In 2006, he received the Heart and Hand Award for his lifetime in service to the Parks Foundation. In 1987, he received the Distinguished Life Membership Award from the IPRA, and in 2010 he was awarded the

Legend Award from the National Advisory Committee of the Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism at Indiana University.

Ted and Alice moved to the Meadowood Retirement Community sixteen years after his retirement. There, Ted enjoyed attending IU sports events and programs presented by the School of Music and Auditorium Series. He served as Chairman of the Recreation Committee for this retirement community for nine years.

Ted loved sailing, golfing, summering in Wareham, MA, watching IU sports, following the Boston Red Sox, taking trips, and spending time with friends and family.

Ted was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Alice. He is survived by four children: Joan, of Medford, MA; Theodore and his wife Annie of Renvyle, Ireland; John and his wife Shari Barrett of Evansville, IN; and Doug and his wife Deborah, of Westhaven, CA. He also is survived by seven grandchildren (Caitlin Lewando, Peter Deppe, Michael Deppe, Lauren Broocker, Ross Deppe, Ryne Deppe, and Dayne Deppe) and one great granddaughter (Alanna Deppe).

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday July 8th at the First Methodist Church in downtown Bloomington, IN. Reception with family immediately following the service at the church.

His ashes will be interred next summer in a private service of celebration at Forest Hills Cemetery in Boston, MA. Memorial contributions may be made to the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Foundation or the Shalom Community Center.

Allen Funeral Home 4155 South Old Highway 37 is handling the arrangements and online condolences may be sent to the family [www.allenfuneralhome.org](http://www.allenfuneralhome.org).

# Tribute Wall

TR

“ I was so excited today as I was told that I had received a distinguished alumni award from Indiana University. The first thing that I tried to do was to contact Ted and was shocked and saddened to learn that he had died. Ted was my professor, mentor and friend. He was a leader in his field but always took the time to help those who were just getting started. He was a wonderful family man and had a wonderful family. He and Alice were quite special people. I will miss Ted ver much

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**Trevor Garrett** - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

AN

“ Dear Joan, Bob, Jack, and Doug,  
How I loved both of your parents! They were always, always exceptionally kind to me.  
One semester while I audited a Dutch class once a week your lovely mother took care of my two pre-schoolers. They loved going because your mother always gave them Peter Rabbit sandwiches, lettuce sprinkled with sugar and rolled up.  
Was that a standard in your family, or did your mom make it up just for my Nancy and Michael?  
Both Ted and Alice are missed and fondly remembered by me. You were blessed to have them for parents. I was blessed to have them for friends.  
Sincerely, Ann Armstrong

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**Ann Armstrong** - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

NA

“ Dear Deppe family: A friend informed me by e-mail of Ted's death. I send you my love and prayers for God's comforting hand. Ted and Alice were dear friends during our 37 years in Bloomington. My late husband, John was both a student of Ted's and later a faculty colleague. Ted and Alice visited us here in Wisconsin, together with the Mobleys, Martins, Hroneks, and Brantleys when we opened our new home for retirement. We also visited them in Wareham many years ago and they took us out in their boat. Alice was instrumental in getting me involved with the LWV and the environmental causes in Bloomington. We fought the Westinghouse incinerator together. John passed away in February, 2006, ironically of pancreatic cancer. I can't tell you how many memories are coming to me and how many wonderful times we had together. I do remember Ted renting the IU Alumni boat at Lake Monroe for a dept. outing and having them run out of gas. Ted was livid. There we were, stranded in the middle of the lake. We waved at passers-by and they all thought we were just having a whooping good time. Finally, a fisherman in a small boat stopped and attempted to tow us back. What an evening! I know Ted was a great IU basketball fan. I'm sure he loved the past season and if he was able to attend the games, I bet he didn't leave early as was his usual habit. My best to you and all the family.

Sincerely, Nancy Ross

N2386 S. Tammy Trail, Waupaca, WI 54981

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**Nancy Ross** - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

LE

“ Dear Family of Ted and Alice Deppe,  
We were saddened to read that your father has passed away. We were friends of both of your parents, and we met many of you at Alice's funeral. We are in Germany at present, so we regret that we will not be able to attend services for Ted. We spent many wonderful evenings in their home when Alice was a member of the Experiment in Practical Christianity. We have great respect and love for Ted and Alice. You were blessed with wonderful parents.

*I worked in IU University Relations, and often with HPER, so I was aware of Ted's many accomplishments professionally and his special and revered place in the field of Recreation and Park Administration nationally and internationally.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you all, and we give thanks for the wonderful lives of Ted and Alice.*

*Regards,  
Linda and Ed Stephenson*

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**Linda and Ed Stephenson** - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

JA

“ I was a graduate student in Recreation & Park Administration at IU from 1970-71. I had Dr. Deppe for several classes and I remember each time I saw him he would smile, say my name, "Jane, how are you today?" and then he would wait for my response. I could tell he was interested in how I was that day! After I became a professional I continued to call him Dr. Deppe out of respect for him. He never corrected me by saying "call me Ted," so I kept calling him Dr. Deppe. I am grateful I had the opportunity to know your father. He was a genuine person. May you find comfort in the words and thoughts of the many who knew him.

Jane Hipps Adams  
Executive Director  
California Park & Recreation Society  
Sacramento, CA

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**Jane Adams** - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

AN

“ I was so sad to learn about Ted's passing. I was very fond of him.

When I sent the news out to the Academy members, I received quite a few responses that I would like to share with you. Can you send me an e-mail address so I can do that?

Thank you so much. Andee

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**Andee Chestnut** - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

CH

“ On behalf of the Indiana Park & Recreation Association Leadership Team & Members I would like to offer our condolences. We appreciate all that Ted did to enhance our Association and the Profession. Continued thoughts and prayers from our family to yours.

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**Chris Owens** - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

WS

“ Please know how sad I was to read of Ted's death. I am a member of Ted's Thursday coffee group and always looked forward to seeing him and razzing him about his take on sports and other issues. He always had his list of things to do for the day and let me tell you he never let grass grow under his feet.  
I will miss his smile and incredible optimism. He was a wonderful man and me for to many.

*Liz and I enjoyed many evenings with Ted and Alice. Both share a special page in our book of memories*

*My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.*

*Winston Shindell*

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**Winston Shindell** - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM