

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**Robert Howard Shaffer**

1915 – 2017

Robert Howard Shaffer, 101, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on April 21, 2017 in New Smyrna Beach, Florida.

A native of Indiana, Bob was born September 13, 1915 in Delphi, Indiana, to John W. and Bessie Hall Shaffer. He graduated in 1936 from DePauw University, Greencastle, IN, where he received his A. in history. He was a member of DePauw's Athletic Hall of Fame as a quarterback and defensive back on the 1933 football team, which was undefeated, untied, and un-scored-upon. He earned his MA degree in guidance from Teacher's College, Columbia University, and his PhD degree in higher education from New York University in 1945. He was awarded LLD degrees from DePauw in 1976 and from Indiana University in 1985.

Bob loved Indiana University. He served this campus as a respected and wise administrator, a treasured teacher and mentor, and an engaged member of the community, attending numerous campus events. IU basketball was always one of his favorites, and he was known to talk with alumni regularly about the team's status in the Big Ten. He first came to IU in 1941 to join the School of Business faculty, after serving as a professional staff member of the Boy Scouts of America for five years in New York City. Bob left IU briefly to serve in the U.S. Army from 1943-1945. He returned to IU and accepted a joint faculty appointment in the School of Education and School of Business. Beginning in 1946 he served as Assistant Dean of Students until 1955, when he assumed the positions of Dean of Students and Director of the Division of Student Personnel until 1968, after which he joined the Higher Education faculty.

In 1959 and 1961 Bob served as a consultant under Indiana University's educational contract with the United States Agency for International Development in Thailand. In 1967 he was special consultant to Kabul University, Kabul, Afghanistan, where he worked with an IU team to help improve facilities, programs, and the administration of higher education. He was chair of the Department of Higher Education from 1973 to 1979, and then chair of the Department of College Student Personnel Administration from 1979 until his retirement in 1981.

He was instrumental in establishing the Higher Education and Student Affairs (HESA) program, formerly known as the College Student Personnel (CSP) program, as one of the most prestigious programs in the country. During his time at Indiana University Bob guided the campus through the turbulent times of war and campus protests. Focused on creating a campus environment that would bring the community together, recognize individual student struggles, and advance a campus climate that valued freedom of speech and diversity of opinion, he was instrumental in the creation of counseling, veterans' affairs, and international services offices on IU's campus.

His legacy is found throughout IU, and the higher education and student affairs profession. In a 1986 article in the *Journal of Counseling and Development*, Professors George D. Kuh and Michael D. Coomes noted, "Everybody who knows Bob admires and respects him. For over five decades – as a counselor, dean of students, faculty member, professional association leader, and international consultant – Bob has pursued a simple but important goal: To encourage the personal and professional development of those with whom he has contact. Throughout the world there are thousands of former students, staff members, and professional associates – all of whom he considers friends – who have

been touched by Bob's enthusiasm and commitment to human development." Bob's contributions to higher education extended far beyond his formal roles at IU. Bob was a national leader in higher education and student affairs, and contributed significantly to the literature surrounding student affairs work in higher education.

His professional activities included leadership positions in several national organizations in the field of student affairs, from which he received numerous honors and awards. Bob served as the first president of the American Personnel and Guidance Association (1951-1953); appointed associate editor of the *Personnel and Guidance Journal* (1948); secretary of the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) (1948); regional vice president of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) (1964-1966: Region V); and editor of the *NASPA Journal* (1969-1972). In 1969 Bob was honored by both the American Personnel and Guidance Association with a special meritorious service award, and by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators for distinguished service to higher education. In recognition of his seminal contributions to the field Bob was awarded the inaugural Outstanding Contribution to Higher Education Award from NASPA (1969); the NASPA Scott Goodnight Award for Outstanding Performance as a Dean (1973); the ACPA Annuit Coeptis Award (1988); the ACPA Esther Lloyd-Jones Professional Service Award (1979); and the NASPA John L. Blackburn Distinguished Pillar of the Profession (2017).

While the profession has lost a pioneer in the field, Bob's contributions and caring approach to working with students will not be forgotten. Students, faculty and staff throughout the country are honored annually with awards in Bob's name. The IU Class of 1967 created the Robert H. Shaffer Chair in the College of Arts and Sciences. The Association of Fraternity and Sorority Advisors honors an individual annually with the Robert H. Shaffer Award which since 1980 is given to a professional who has demonstrated a long-term commitment to fostering change, building relationship, and mentoring professional in fraternity/sorority life. Tenured graduate faculty are recognized annually through the Robert H. Shaffer Award for Academic Excellence as a Graduate Faculty Member which was established in 1986 to honor faculty who have a distinguished record of scholarly achievement, have made significant contributions to the professional associations, and inspired graduate students in the field. The IU HESA program honors a doctoral graduate with the Robert H. Shaffer Alumni Award which is typically presented annually to someone who exemplifies outstanding service to the student affairs profession. Each year at IU undergraduate students are selected to be part of the Shaffer Internship program where they work in the Division of Student Affairs to create conditions on campus that promote student engagement. Into his 100th year, Bob would Skype with the undergraduate interns to learn about the work they were doing on campus. He never stopped engaging with students, faculty, staff, and alumni on campus.

Bob is survived by his loving wife of twenty-seven years, Dr. Joye Coy Shaffer; his son and daughter-in-law, Jim and Lynn Shaffer, of Cape Elizabeth, ME; a daughter-in-law, Margaret Vegeler, of Fort Wayne, IN; stepsons John Coy of East Amherst, NY, and William Coy of Nashville, TN; stepdaughters Connie Coy Weeks of Orlando, FL and Teri Coy McLean of Gainesville, FL; their spouses; two grandchildren, Derek Shaffer and Ryan Shaffer; four great grandchildren; eight step grandchildren; and two step great grandchildren. His first wife, Marjorie Fitch Shaffer, to whom he was married for forty-seven years, and a son, Bruce W. Shaffer, who died in the Viet Nam war, preceded him in death.

Bob will be missed, but never forgotten. Indiana University is grateful for his many contributions that continue to touch the lives of undergraduate and graduate students. This resolution will be presented to the Bloomington Faculty Council and become part of the official minutes and its archive to document the remarkable life of Robert Howard Shaffer and his contributions to Indiana University and higher education in the U.S. and internationally. Copies of the resolution will be sent to his widow Dr. Joye Coy Shaffer, and his son and daughter-in-law Jim and Lynn Shaffer. In addition, copies will be sent to the national offices of NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, ACPA: College Student Educators International, American Counseling Association (ACA) and Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors (AFA).

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