

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION****John D. Donnell**

(1920-2017)

John D. Donnell, Professor Emeritus of Business Law, died May 14, 2017 in St. George, Utah, at the age of 96. During his 23 years on the Indiana University faculty, he played key leadership roles in the Department of Business Law. After his retirement, John's love of the outdoors and interest in travel led him to many adventures in the United States and around the world.

John was born in Waterloo, Iowa, on Dec. 2, 1920. He graduated from East High School in Waterloo, having served as president of the student body and editor of the school newspaper. A dedicated participant in the Boy Scouts of America, John earned the rank of Eagle Scout and traveled to the Netherlands to attend the 1937 International Boy Scout Jamboree. In 1942, he married Florence May, who had been his high school classmate and, better yet, his debate partner! They were married for 58 years, until Florence's death in 2000.

After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Princeton University in 1943, John served as a Purple Heart-winning officer in the Field Artillery during World War II. After the war, he chose to attend law school—certainly a move to be applauded!--at the University of Iowa. His academic achievements there earned him not only the Juris Doctor degree but also membership in the venerable Order of the Coif. Returning to Waterloo, John served in various roles, including in-house counsel, corporate secretary, vice-president of administration, and director, for the Rath Packing Company. He was also active in community service and continued a longstanding interest in the Boy Scouts by serving in leadership roles for the organization.

Despite John's professional success at Rath, the prospect of an academic career was tempting. John became a student again, this time at the Harvard Business School, where he completed a doctorate in 1962. He then joined the faculty of the IU School of Business, now known as the Kelley School of Business.

John quickly became an instrumental member of the Department of Business Law (now known as the Department of Business Law and Ethics). He taught a broad range of courses and led the department as its chair for a significant number of years. John displayed skillful leadership of the department during a critical time of expansion and helped significantly to establish a reputation for excellence on the part of the department—a reputation that continues to this day. The department also benefits considerably from the generous financial support John provided to it during his years in retirement.

While at IU, John became a well-known co-author of two widely used textbooks, wrote numerous articles for law journals and business journals, served as editor-in-chief of the American Business Law Journal, and founded the Journal of Legal Studies Education. Long an active member of the American Business Law Association (now known as the Academy of Legal Studies in Business), John served in various officer roles for the association and a term as its president. His leadership of the association helped to make it the leading professional organization for faculty members who teach business law and ethics.

After his retirement in 1985, John provided many hours of volunteer work as a student advocate at IU. His volunteer activities continued after a move to Utah during the 1990s. There, he served on the

boards of the Virgin River Land Preservation Association and Habitat for Humanity for Southwestern Utah. His great love for nature and the outdoors led John to be active for many years in The Nature Conservancy, initially in Indiana and then in Utah.

John's fascination with world travel prompted him to visit all the continents except Antarctica. Sports and other pursuits interested him as well—and he was very good at them. Even after his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday, he was still skiing. He continued biking and hiking well into his 90s.

As mentioned earlier, John and Florence were married for 58 years until her death in 2000. In 2009, John married Trudy Corwin. She survives him, as do his children Alan, Lin, Brian, and Duane. John's daughter, Cathlin, preceded him in death in 2004.

I request that this resolution be included in the minutes and permanent archive of the Bloomington Faculty Council.

Arlen Langvardt  
Professor of Business Law  
Graf Family Professor  
Kelley School of Business  
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