MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
JOHN W. RYAN
(August 19, 1929- August 6, 2011)

On October 28th, 2011 some of John Ryan's friends and colleagues spoke in Bloomington during a memorial celebration of his life and accomplishments. In order to preserve their tributes in the digital archives of the University and Bloomington Faculty Councils, these testaments and memories are hereby submitted as a resolution to these councils. They are prefaced by a sketch of President Ryan's career before he became the fourteenth president of Indiana University, and some of his own memories recorded in two interviews in the Emeriti Oral History Project and in an interview with Perry Metz, Executive Director of the University's Radio and Television Services.

When John Ryan sat for an interview in the emeriti oral history project, I asked him how he came to political science as his academic discipline. The question surprised him. "You know," he said, "in all my years no one has asked me that question." It is true that most of President Ryan's years in the academy were spent in important administrative posts. But in an interview with Perry Metz broadcast on WTIU in 2011, John said that he always told students in courses in higher education administration that the best way to prepare oneself to be selected as a university president was to be a good faculty member. That is how he prepared himself, as a graduate student, teaching assistant, PhD, assistant and then tenured associate professor in departments of government and political science.

His first ambition, "from my earliest days," he said in the emeriti oral history interview, was to go to college, perhaps to study law. His parents had not attended college, and there was not much money in a family with six children. John won a scholarship in a program organized by the US Navy, and in 1947 he was sent to the University of Utah to become an engineer. Courses in economics and political science, and an influential teacher named Frances Wormuth, changed his mind, and after a couple of years he dropped out of the Navy program and worked at part-time jobs to pay his own way through college. Wormuth, who had been a member of the Indiana faculty in political science, pointed John toward graduate study in Bloomington. John did not give up on his idea of becoming a lawyer until he asked the dean of the law school at Utah if he could still work while enrolled in classes. As John in his interview remembered the dean's words, "It is incompatible for one to work in servile positions and be a student of the law." So John took Wormuth's advice, and after his graduation in 1951 he came to Bloomington to study in the graduate program in what was then called the Department of Government.

"On the first day I put my foot on the campus of IU," John said in one of his emeriti oral history interviews, "I fell in love with the place, with the people, with their attitude toward other people." He remembered the teachers and colleagues in the department of that time with great affection and respect: John Stoner, Walter Laves, Edward Buerig, Byrum Carter, Joseph Sutton. After serving as a teaching assistant for a couple of years, John worked for the state government in Kentucky for a year, and then joined Sutton in the University's program to teach and assist government officials in Thailand. As a research professor in Bangkok he also collected data for his dissertation on comparative local government. He returned to Bloomington in 1957, completed his doctorate, and in 1958 left to join the faculty in political science at the University of Wisconsin.

John taught four courses a semester in Madison, the usual schedule in those years for a new faculty member. But he was soon pulled back into administration to help prepare proposals to foundations and the federal government and to serve as associate director of a bureau of government research. Although he was granted tenure after only two years at Wisconsin, he left in 1962 to become an assistant to the president at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. There he learned, as he put it, that he wanted to be a line officer rather than a staff officer, and after a year he went to Arizona State as vice-president for academic affairs. Before he left Massachusetts, however, he wrote a memo to the university president in which he articulated an idea that became central to his conception of the responsibilities of public higher education. It is right, he wrote, as well

as politically prudent, to make the resources and excitement of higher education available to all students who can profit from them. Therefore, the state university of Massachusetts should create a campus in Boston to enroll students who for financial or other reasons cannot migrate to a pastoral residential campus 120 miles away. When the University of Massachusetts in Boston was established in 1965, John Ryan was asked to become its first chancellor.

In Boston John Ryan practiced and enlarged the intellectual and political talents that he was to bring to the presidency of Indiana University. He helped to assemble a faculty, sat in a borrowed office to write the first schedule of classes for the campus, deftly negotiated with the old hands of city and state politics about matters ranging from the admission of a politician's favored nephew to the physical site of the new campus. In 1968 Elvis Stahr, then president of Indiana University, called him back to Bloomington as Vice-President and Chancellor for Regional Campuses. Stahr's idea, like John's idea, was to bring what in the Perry Metz interview John called an "equivalent education" to undergraduates in the state who could not, or need not, come to Bloomington. That idea was not fully realized until after John Ryan became president in 1971 and put in place a reorganization of the university that stands as one of the large and durable accomplishments of his sixteen-year presidency.

There were many such accomplishments, and after his retirement from the Indiana presidency John Ryan went on to take on major administrative roles and tasks in universities in Florida and Maryland and as chancellor of the university system of the state of New York. But then he and his wife Pat returned to Bloomington, and it is his long service to Indiana University that is remembered in the tributes that follow this preface. Charles Bonser in his remarks calls up the story of the four blind men describing an elephant, each of them knowing only a part of the whole complicated body. Even the several testaments assembled below cannot account for the whole elephant. But each of them amply and admiringly testifies to how much President Ryan brought and added to the University through the steady exercise of his intelligence, his public-spiritedness, his political craft, and his love of everything about Indiana University, from the look of its campuses to its diverse and always expanding role as an instrument for the common good.

Donald Gray
Emeritus Professor of English

CHARLES BONSER
EMERITUS PROFESSOR AND DEAN, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

I was privileged to know and work for and with John Ryan for over forty years. I first met him when I was Associate Dean of the Business School, and was responsible for the School's Regional Campus programs. John had been recently hired as Vice President for IU's regional campuses. A few years later, on a sunny summer afternoon in 1971, I received a life-changing phone call from John asking me to come by for a drink at the Bryan House after work that day. John and Pat had lived there since John was named IU President the preceding January.

During the cocktail discussion, for which we were joined by IU's then Executive Vice President, Dave Derge, John asked me to come into the President's Office as his special assistant, with the responsibility of putting together the plan for what I thought was a crazy idea – the School of Public and Environmental Affairs – with the chance of taking over as Dean if it was approved. We wound up working on that project until he left the Presidency sixteen years later.

Incidentally, when we started the School I had no idea where the start-up money would come from. I later found out that John had set up a budgetary place in IU for it under the name "The Center for Related Studies.'' So that was SPEA's first name.

In all those years I worked for John, he was the perfect boss. He occasionally offered ideas and suggestions, and he kept track of what we were doing. But he never micro-managed, interfered, or got involved

unless we asked him for help. That was rare, but, for example – in 1981 he gave me a hand when the Dean of the Business School suggested that a great name for the new SPEA building would be the "Business School Addition." John nipped that idea in the bud. It was a help having a "gorilla in the closet" like John.

John was one of the most complex people I have ever met. He was indeed bigger than life. Over the course of his IU Presidency, as well as his term as Chancellor of the State University of New York System, he became an international legend in higher education, with friends, colleagues, and contacts all over the world.

The task we have today of remembering and honoring John and his many contributions reminds me of the story about the four blind men trying to describe an elephant – what you "saw" depended on where you touched him. He had national and international impacts on areas I was not involved in and had little knowledge of. For example, he led the reform of intercollegiate athletics and put academics back in charge. But it is not an activity of John's that I was very familiar with.

For me, therefore, the best way to share my perceptions of John is to identify what I believe were some of his unique characteristics as I personally observed them.

The first thing I would say is that John had a great love for Indiana University – its history and its people. He had a broad concept of IU and its place in our society, as well as a detailed knowledge of what made it work. He liked nothing better than putting on his ceremonial gown, with the presidential jewel, and leading a commencement or another ceremonial occasion.

And he enjoyed the personal interactions those events offered. He not only knew the politicians and opinion leaders of the State, he knew their families and their interests. In turn, they respected him as IU's leader, and loved his style and Irish charm, irrespective of whether they agreed with whatever he was promoting at any given time. When John took over as President in 1971, this relationship with IU constituencies, to say the least, was not our strong suit. John fixed it.

I said earlier he was very complex. He was also very smart. He could easily and did usually keep several finesses and schemes going at the same time. His Executive VP, and our old friend, George Pinnell, used to say, "When John says there are five reasons why something was a good or bad idea, you knew he knows at least the first two reasons, but will only figure out the next three when he gets to them."

John was meticulous and a perfectionist. He wanted things to be done right, and he expected those who worked for him to do the same. This showed up in lots of ways, but, for example, I can still see him laboring over the script of the regional campus commencements on the plane to the campuses, with a nervous Alumni Secretary, Frank Jones, by his side. It's my guess that he is probably still working on the script for this event as we speak.

John had a particular view of the world and how things should work in life, and always enjoyed the Professor's prerogative of "thinking otherwise." For example, it was an experience to play golf with him, particularly in Florida, where we have a lot of water holes. John had his own rules. If he hit a ball into the water, he thought it was bad enough losing a ball – why should you also have to count a penalty shot?

John had a great appetite for life. He was enthusiastic about many things, and really enjoyed good food. One of the legends about him, which I did not observe personally, but have it on good authority, is about the time John and his buddy, President Joe Sutton – both great eaters in those days – visited a small restaurant in Rome – called El Picilo Mondo – for lunch. They were very taken with the menu and couldn't decide what to have. So when the waiter came to get their order, they decided to order the entire menu, and told the waiter to start bringing food.

After a few hours of this, they gave up and went back to their hotel for a nap. But they told the waiter they would be back for dinner to finish the menu. When they did, word had gotten around the restaurant about the crazy Americans, and each time a waiter brought a new dish, the other patrons would applaud. I don't know if they ever accomplished their mission, but if I knew them, John and Joe made an honorable try at it.

John was very creative and saw possibilities most others would miss. For example, I know some of you remember the IU football stadium on 10th Street, across from the Business School (that's where "Breaking Away" was filmed). Many thought IU should build a parking garage on that site when the stadium was

demolished. John had the idea of building an Arboretum instead. Of course, he was right, and we added one of the jewels on the IU campus. It probably should have been named for him – maybe it's not too late.

Finally, I don't want to leave you thinking John was all business. He had a terrific sense of humor and enjoyed nothing more than a good bottle of scotch, a story or a song – preferably an Irish ballad or Christmas carols. He could spin a great yarn and go on at great length (sometimes to Pat's consternation).

John had occasional trouble with gout. One time I ran into him on campus and saw that he was on a cane. I said, "John, what happened to you?" He said, "You know, I was at Purdue yesterday for a meeting, and I got there early. So I thought I would go to their library to kill some time. Would you believe," he said, "while I was walking around the stacks, a cow stepped on my foot."

It is hard to believe that he is gone I saved the WTIU interview he had with Perry Metz this summer, and can't get myself to delete it, even though I have seen it several times. Knowing John Ryan changed my life, as well as those of many others in their room today and around the world. I'll never forget him

J. TERRY CLAPACS
VICE-PRESIDENT FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS AND FACILITIES (Retired)

He said there was a lot of work to do ….

That IUPUI would grow faster than projected and there would be political opportunities to move the Herron School from its current location on North Pennsylvania to the Michigan Street campus. There would also be an opportunity to move the Purdue programs from their home on 18th Street across from the Fairgrounds to the main campus on Michigan

The Regional Campuses would also need attention. If IU is to provide access to an IU education and an IU degree to every qualified Hoosier son and daughter, the Regional Campuses would have to all become four-year, degree-granting institutions. And to assure that they are within easy commutes, we may need to add one or two new campuses.

He said that he was very concerned about the Bloomington campus. Once known for its aesthetic beauty, it was no longer the campus of William Lowe Bryan or Herman Wells. He said he wanted that fixed and he would support an effort to get that done.

He said if we were going to work together, we needed to share the same vision. Of course, that meant for all of us who worked for him or around him, that we needed to understand his vision and make it our own. He asked if I had ever read Hoagy Carmichael's autobiography, *The Stardust Road*. At first I thought he was pulling my leg, since he would often refer to Hoagy and point out that they were both members of Kappa Sigma fraternity. This time he was serious. I responded that I had not read Hoagy's autobiography but would.

The words of Hoagy Carmichael, *The Stardust Road* [New York: Rinehart, 1946]:

> Have you ever seen the big maples? The trunks are sometimes three feet in diameter and they shoot straight up, barren of branches, for some forty or fifty feet, and then they spread out into a huge umbrella of limbs and foliage. Hundreds of these and an equal number of large beech trees shade the Indiana campus. For many years there were no walks – just natural paths winding among the trees. Several of these led to a street that borders the campus on the east, called Sorority Row, and here is where the quartets and jazz bands serenade at night. A low stone wall borders the campus on the south. This is the "spooning wall," and is usually dotted by quiet, indiscernible couples late at night who have stopped there on the way home from the Book Nook or a picture show. To the north of campus, bounding Dunn Meadow and the old athletic fields, runs the famous Jordan River. Famous because of its high-sounding name and yet its waters – a foot deep in floodtime – barely trickle during the dog days of August. The snow melts in Bloomington and the Jordan River tumbles importantly, a real river for a little while. The sun shines and the grass turns green. There are flowers and the soft spring rains drip through the maples

> and the Student Building bells spill sweet music over the campus. But there is other music in the air . . . lovely, lyrical, but sometimes hot and urgent. [pp. 33-34, 138]

That was how John W. Ryan saw Indiana University. That was his vision in both a physical and spiritual sense. For him Indiana University was an institution long in history, rich in tradition, and strong in values. For John Ryan there was an Indiana way. And that included a set of courtesies and manners that he insisted be extended to students, faculty, alumni, legislators, and everyone else connected to the university. He also insisted that members of his administration treat one another with respect.

All that John Ryan predicted came to pass. Not all was completed in his administration, but everything was started. The enrollment at IUPUI increased by fifty percent during his time in office. Both Herron and the Purdue programs were relocated to the main campus. The IUPUI campus was extended and developed north of Michigan and across New York Street from Military Park to the White River.

Two new regional campuses were completed during John Ryan's term, IU East in Richmond with an enrollment now of 3700, and IU Southeast in New Albany with an enrollment of 7300. IU Southeast is replete with student housing, recreational facilities, and performing arts facilities.

IU Bloomington became again what it once was, the most beautiful campus in America. Many Bloomington campus landmarks can be directly attributed to John Ryan's vision and energy, including the Arboretum, Sample Gates, the low stone walls, and policies that protect campus green spaces. He loved looking at the campus as a connected set of courtyards, both large and small.

A full account of John W. Ryan's life should be balanced to include acknowledging his temper. Never animated, his temper was more of a slow burn. When a senior administrator from one of IU's campuses suggested that since his campus was the southern-most of the regional campuses, new buildings constructed there should be made of brick and then painted white, John uttered a string of unrecognizable words. I was surprised that he was speaking in tongues. Later I concluded that each word could probably be found in a standard Gaelic dictionary.

John Ryan was an outstanding university president but much more; he was also a friend. He knew the name of your spouse, the names of your children, your parents' names, and the major events of your life. He was also a loving father and husband. Pat, he loved you dearly. You were the perfect partner for both his presidency and his life. You were the "pot of gold" at the end of his Finian's rainbow. Kathleen, Kevin, and Shirley, and I believe Casey is with us today, he loved you all – and he loved the people you have become. He was very proud of you.

Teri Belden. You went to work for John Ryan in 1971 and you were still working for him at noon today. Forty years of outstanding service. He was so grateful to you because you allowed him to be the president he wanted to be, but, more importantly, in the twenty-five years following his presidency, because of your support, he was able to continue to serve Indiana University. You have been magnificent.

John W. Ryan, fourteenth president of Indiana University, fourth longest serving president following Wylie, Bryan, and Wells, led IU through the transition from a single campus university to a multi-campus university, geographically distributed from Lake Michigan to the Ohio River. Because of John Ryan, young Hoosiers in every corner of the state have an opportunity to earn an Indiana University degree.

In 1963, at the dedication of the Robert Frost Library in Amherst, Massachusetts, John F. Kennedy said that, "A nation reveals itself not only in the men it produces but also in the men it honors and remembers." John Ryan, we honor you today, and always and will long remember your enormous contributions to our University.

PEGGY GORDON ELLIOTT MILLER
FORMER CHANCELLOR INDIANA UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST; INTERIM DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Irish poet William Butler Yeats wrote some lines late in his life that speak to what is in my heart today as we celebrate the remarkable life of John Ryan. The poet says:

> Think where man's glory begins and ends,
> And say my glory was that I had such friends.

John Ryan was such a friend to me, my children, and my late husband, Bob. What a happy coincidence that he and Bob grew up about the same time in nearby towns in Minnesota. They even discovered they had mutual friends. They loved to share stories of their young lives on the prairie from which both of them had traveled so very far.

My children remember John as the remarkable man who always knew their names when he saw them on campus and once even came to a birthday party which they had arranged for me in Bloomington. None of their friends could imagine a president who would find time to that! I couldn't imagine children bold enough to ask the President!

John was there for most of the pivotal points in my professional life. He was my Mentor when I was an ACE Fellow; he was my leader for the many years I was a member of the Indiana University faculty; he was my hero when he was not afraid to appoint a woman as a Chancellor and named me to that post at IUN.

As a new Chancellor in a part of the state then in great political and economic flux, there was an assumption that John would be my shadow as I took the role I was assigned. One of the questions I have gotten over the years was how much did the President try to run things. I love the question since I could answer that although John and I were in contact every month with the regular meetings, and I could always reach him by phone, he only called me on a university matter once in my first five years. You see, he wanted to know if he could late-register his nephew.

John always knew what each of us was doing, and we knew he would let us know if weren't getting it right. John was very popular in Northwest Indiana because he took the time to come for events that were special to us, and during those very tough years in that part of the state, it made a difference to the community and the campus alike.

John was also my confidant and advisor when I needed to make hard decisions about changing universities. He always seemed to know what needed to be known about the institution under consideration. Sometimes he even told me more than I needed to know about them since he knew both histories and secrets.

In my lives away from Indiana University I learned that John Ryan had supported far more opportunities for professional growth for his colleagues than was the case in many major universities. Once when I insisted that a colleague take advantage of an international development assignment, he told me how many times that university had previously refused to approve such opportunities. I was genuinely surprised because John not only expected us to grow in our roles, but found opportunities to help us. This particular colleague told me that he would have had a much richer career if he had served with John's kind of leadership. I suspect he was right; all of us who worked with John became more than we might have been without his direction.

John was the one I chose to speak at both my presidential inaugurations, and it gave me great pride that he said yes.

John was also available for the personal challenges. After about thirty years, I even stopped calling him Mr. President, since he had become so much more to me than that.

The Ryan home and the Miller home were not far apart in Florida, and I had the opportunity to continue our great friendship there. Pat and John came by see me on their way back to Bloomington only days before my

husband died, and they were there for his memorial in South Dakota just as they had been for so many of the celebrations in our lives.

John gave me opportunity, guidance, pride, friendship and comfort.

I hope we can all provide as much for Pat. It is the least we can do for John

Our glory was we had such a friend.

BOB HAMMEL
RETIRED SPORTS EDITOR, BLOOMINGTON HERALD-TIMES

John and I maintained a relationship in our mutual retirement that included lunches together about every six weeks, right up through two weeks before his passing. A little basketball, yes, and football . . . a lot of IU.

I always noticed a family warmth when he spoke of his predecessors and successors, always by first name, Herman through Michael. The conversation was bright, pleasant, laugh-filled. I can close my eyes and hear his Irish chuckle now as I sadly bemoan his leaving me, when our next lunch would have been is turn to buy.

Over the years I had observed his effect on the whole university, its breadth of education – and his Herman Wells-style devotion to its physical appearance, its sheer loveliness, its Hoosier blend of limestone architecture and God's great greenery underfoot, at arms' length, and as a shrouding canopy overhead.

And I saw his insistence on the university's fidelity to the entire state through development of the main tree's branches, into not just Indianapolis and Fort Wayne but also Kokomo and Gary and South Bend and Richmond and, under John's leadership, newly into New Albany.

But I was a sports writer, so my particular awareness was of the role played as Indiana University's president in the uniquely American linkage of academia and athletics. Some consider it a joke, this term student-athlete. John considered it a requisite. If the latter were to be, the former had to be.

It was under John Ryan that Indiana flourished in that student-athlete context as never before. I say "never" fully aware that in the '30s, under the presidencies of William Lowe Bryan and the young Herman Wells, and under the great program-building athletic director Zora Clevenger, IU had a golden era. And "Mr. Clev," the man who hired them, was proud of what he called his "four aces" – coaches Bo McMillan, in football, Billy Hayes in track and cross country, Billy Thom in wrestling, and Everett Dean, then Branch McCracken in basketball, each of Hall of Fame, national-champion, Olympic stature.

The '30s and '40s at Indiana, spilling into the '50s, were indeed some golden times in IU athletics – IU student-athletics.

But in John Ryan's '80s, there were simply more.

Those coaching spots were filled by men of similar stature, Bill Mallory and Sam Bell and Bob Knight, with Doc Counsilman and Hobie Billingsley and Jerry Yeagley as well -- and Lin Loring the pace-setter for many excellent coaches in the new arena of women's athletics.

John Ryan's "aces" also all were people who not only won but put a premium on doing it with athletes who would graduate. No university in America matched the sheer tenure of John's mid-'80s-mid-'90s collection, or did so much winning and so much graduating with so little – as in none – investigation or prosecution by the NCAA.

Even then, John saw ominous things coming on in national collegiate athletics, which was born in America in the late 19th century with strict faculty oversight built into an infrastructure that emphasized conferences of like-minded neighboring schools, with fraternal concern for academic bases. What John saw and tried to head off was the big-money fiasco we have today.

John Ryan was slow to convince that the tight boundaries of the tradition-rich Big Ten should be stretched to include even as strong an academic institution as Penn State. I wonder what he would be saying today about this crazy conference reshuffling, as not just tradition but even geography be damned, for money.

Please understand: I lay none of this change to Michael McRobbie. John, too, would have been powerless in this money-mad race. But it was John who, before most others, saw that presidents had so much to lose, and led them into an arena that most had ceded to their athletic directors, as they had every reason to think they should.

But too few had a Ralph Floyd in place.

John Ryan of Indiana University called out for university presidents to get involved in the NCAA conventions, led in the formation of the NCAA's first Presidents Commission, and in 1984 began a two-year term as its first chairman.

What happened this week, the first linkage of academic records with team eligibility for post-season competition, is a direct result of that presidential involvement, but so slow in coming – twenty-seven years after John Ryan started pushing.

Walter Byers, the father of the modern NCAA as its executive director, said back then of John Ryan: "He brought to the position his considerable stature within higher education; he guided the Commission in a manner that was calm and even-handed, yet decisive and efficient. The NCAA and college athletics were most fortunate to have had his attention, when it was needed most."

Then, also, the president of the AAU, the Association of American Universities, praised "John Ryan's good sense, sound judgment, and good-humored political shrewdness," and said, "He has made major contributions to American higher education in the areas of international education and research, and intercollegiate athletics."

That is my tiny segment's measure of the man we honor today. A great friend who owed me a lunch.