

## **Memorial Resolution of the Academic Staff Assembly of the University of Wisconsin-Madison**

### **On the death of John Torphy, Former Vice Chancellor for Administration**

John Torphy, former University of Wisconsin-Madison vice chancellor for administration and a long-time and dedicated state official, died in Tucson, Ariz. on Sunday, Oct. 2. He was 71 years old.

John served as vice chancellor for administration at UW-Madison from 1989 to 2003, overseeing the university's fiscal and administrative matters. John was an outstanding leader and authority on budgetary and administrative matters. However, in many ways he defied the image of a high-ranking university official. He never had a computer in his office and often drafted major documents in longhand. Co-workers never saw him in a suit and tie.

John was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Wisconsin in 1962 with a degree in History. He then served in the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic and as an adviser to the Dominican government and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. He also worked in such varied jobs as program director for the Latin American Region of the Peace Corps and assistant deputy mayor of San Francisco.

Upon his return to Wisconsin, he served as state budget director under Gov. Patrick Lucey, secretary of administration for Gov. Martin Schreiber, and in top positions in the Department of Health and Social Services in the administrations of Gov. Tony Earl and Gov. Tommy Thompson. John also taught UW courses in public

policy development, decision-making and capital budgeting and finance.

John was known for his encyclopedic knowledge of the state budget. He also had remarkable insights when it came to the political aspects of university and state leadership and decision-making. He exemplified the highest standards of what public service could be. He not only was devoted to serving the people of Wisconsin but was a role model and inspiration for those who worked with and for him. UW-Madison and the state of Wisconsin are better places because of John's contributions and service.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Michael and Alma Torphy, and his brother Michael Torphy Jr. He is survived by his wife Helen in Tucson, son Sean of San Diego, Calif., and brother Dan of Pewaukee, Wisconsin.