

Memorial Resolution for Paul Ginsberg July 23, 1924 – April 13, 2015

Paul Ginsberg, Dean of Students emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, died April 13 at the age of 90.

First, let it be said that Paul would not want anything read at a gathering such as this one, or formally entered into the record. He was that humble.

Paul spent nearly four decades on campus, from 1951 to 1990. He worked as an academic staff member in university housing and in the employee assistance office, but it was as Dean of Students that he made his mark. He served in that role for 17 years from 1970 to 1987.

He made a difference in the lives of untold numbers of students, alumni, faculty, and staff.

Once you got to know Paul, you became his friend for life. In the remembrances written after Paul's passing, themes emerged. He was kind and compassionate. He was an incredible listener. He was the voice for those who lacked the ability to speak for themselves. He was a man who cared deeply and saw the potential in others.

Paul is remembered as selfless. He was always quick to pitch in, often from his own wallet, when a student needed help. He was especially concerned about making sure students of color and students with disabilities felt at home on campus. He was a man with courage and high expectations who was willing to take on difficult issues such as the alcohol culture and relationship violence."

During his time on campus, he witnessed many historic changes, from the post-World War II arrival of GIs to the Vietnam War protests and flamingoes on Bascom Hill. Antiwar protests received national attention, and tear gas was often in the air. In a 2003 interview, Paul reflected. "Truly, it was the best of times and the worst of times. But I think the university grew stronger out of that turmoil." Indeed, the UW did grow stronger and much of the strength came from Paul's ability to balance his wry sense of humor with a deep and abiding sense of wisdom to guide students to become world citizens committed to justice and peace.

A native of Milwaukee who served four years in the Army during World War II, Ginsberg came to Madison as an undergraduate, and continued through graduate school. He spent time in Israel during the crucial early years when the present State was founded.

Paul was a giver and he cared deeply for students. His compassionate counsel of individual students was extraordinary; he stayed late, arrived early and made himself

available to students who were struggling on campus. He was often the first one to work in the morning and the light in his Bascom Hall office was the last to be turned off.

His legacy is the way he interacted with students and campus colleagues. He cared about making this large campus a place where people mattered — that value continues on our campus to this day. In 2008 the Division of Student Life created an award in Paul's honor named for Dean Emeritus Ginsberg that embodies all the values he held.

In his retirement, Paul wrote a column called, *Simply Pondering*, for his condominium community's newsletter. In 2013, he added five new commandments to the standard 10 commandments. They speak to Paul's spirit.

XI: Thou shalt never tell anyone not to feel the way they feel.

XII. Thou shalt never have to listen to the advice you so freely give to others.

XIII. Thou shalt never make an assumption without testing it out.

XIV. Thou shalt never ask someone how they feel unless you are prepared to take the time to listen to their full answer.

XV. Thou shalt never demonize those you disagree with lest you yourself be demonized.

Paul is survived and lovingly remembered by his children; his daughter, Ann, and his sons, Larry and Luke; his granddaughter, Karianna; and grandson, Nicholas; and many other family members.