

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ROBERT TAYLOR

Robert Taylor, professor emeritus of Journalism and Mass Communication, died in Madison on December 27, 2002 due to complications from a stroke. He was 86.

Bob was a Madison native who spent virtually his entire professional and academic life associated with UW-Madison. After earning a B.A. degree in journalism from UW-Madison in 1938, he worked briefly as a newspaper reporter in Illinois before returning to Madison as news editor for WIBA radio. Bob served in World War II on the staff of the Office of Chief of Transportation in New York, rising to the rank of major. Following the war he returned to WIBA, then joined the university in 1948 as an assistant professor of journalism and director of the University News Service. In his faculty position, Bob taught radio news and started the campus's first course in television news. He was promoted to associate professor in 1957 and full professor in 1966.

But Bob was best known throughout the campus and the state as an assistant to four presidents – E.B. Fred, Conrad Elvehjem, Fred Harvey Harrington, and Edwin Young. In addition, when the University of Wisconsin System was organized, Bob served as a vice president to President John Weaver. In 1968, at the height of campus protests against the Vietnam War, he was named Vice President for University Relations. His service in university administration spanned not only the Vietnam protest era, but also the explosive growth of the campus following World War II.

In 1972 Bob returned to teach in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication until his retirement in 1986.

Bob often said that one of his most challenging campus assignments was to be a member of the Daily Cardinal Board, a position he held for more than 28 years. As a student from 1934 to 1938 he had been a reporter, editor, and managing editor of the paper. During his years with the Cardinal, Bob's leadership qualities contributed to the resolution of many important issues facing the paper. Two notable examples involved staff strikes against the Cardinal Board. He was chairman of the staff strike committee in a month-long staff strike against the board over editor selection in 1938. Then later, when he was a faculty member on the board, the students on the board fired the editor and business manager, resulting in another staff strike.

Throughout his life and his career at UW-Madison, Bob Taylor's influence was evident across the campus. From student, to journalist, to professor, to administrator, he helped guide the university through periods of dramatic growth and change. The campus has clearly been the primary beneficiary of Bob's professional skills as a teacher and administrator and of his fervent dedication to the university he loved.

Bob is survived by his wife, Judith, and two daughters, Anne Taylor Wadsack of Madison and Kathleen Taylor Isaacs of Pasadena, Maryland.

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