

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS DAVID DAVIS

David Davis, a member of the University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty from 1958-1983 died on October 11, 2004 in Oberlin, Ohio.

Born in Ottuma, Iowa, sixth in a family of seven children, Dave graduated from the University of Iowa in 1941 and began teaching public school. During his first year of teaching he was jailed as a war resister, but later accepted enlistment in the Army Air Force. On his sixteenth bombing mission he was shot down over Germany. He lost his hearing in the years of imprisonment, but he acquired an indomitable understanding of the universals of humanity as the men learned how to share, survive and believe together.

Dave married Madeline Allen, his high school sweetheart, when he returned from Germany and they taught together in Portland, Oregon, before returning to Iowa City for graduate school on the GI Bill. There the Davises established Woodlawn School, an innovative pre-school. In 1953, the family moved to Minnesota where Dave taught morning kindergarten at Phelps Elementary Laboratory School and college education classes in the afternoon at Winona State University. As faculty advisor for student activities, he inspired a 20 mile march to commemorate the 1945 forced POW march through Germany that occurred before liberation. It received national attention for the small state college. He directed student theater, including staging his favorite text, *Alice in Wonderland*, and a production of *Our Town*, infused with the experience of *Stalag 17*.

Three years later, the family returned to the University of Iowa, Iowa City for a doctorate and then to the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Education where Dave remained until his retirement in 1980 due to illness. Over the years he taught *Children's Literature*, *Learning Environments for the Young*, and *Film Literature for the Young* on the Madison campus. Always committed to the practicing teacher, he taught many semesters over the radio to campuses statewide. In the 1960's, he established the Lewis Carroll Shelf Award with Dr. Bernice Cavanaugh in the Library School and the associated Children's Book Conference hosted important writers and illustrators for many years.

In 1965, through the Carnegie Foundation, Dave taught education classes at Texas Southern University, an historically black college. With TSU colleagues and Madeline, he designed and conducted the first Headstart Training Course for southern states. During his career, he wrote a number of books and articles to express the ideas of his teaching, including *Patterns of Primary Education*, a college textbook, and the collaborative book, *Playways*.

In 1996, thirteen years after he was granted emeritus status, he and his wife Madeline joined his oldest daughter, Palli Holubar in Oberlin, Ohio. Dividing his time between the pottery studio and the library, he remained the storyteller/reader for countless children and parents.

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