

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

**ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS J. GROVE WOLF**

J. Grove Wolf, emeritus professor of physical education, died on January 12, 2006 at Ingleside Nursing Home in Mount Horeb, Wisconsin at the age of 92, with his grandson, Michael, at his side. He was preceded in death by his wife Joanne ("Lolly"), his daughter, Jo Ann Villnow, and a grandson, Mark Grove "Jake" Villnow, a brother Ralph Jr., and two sisters, Mary Ann Walters and Alice Delight Painter. He is survived by his grandson, Michael Scott Villnow, a brother, Reverend John D. (Carolyn) Wolf, and numerous nieces and nephews. J. Grove Wolf was known as "Jake" by his many friends and colleagues at Wisconsin.

Jake was born on September 12, 1914 in Fargo, North Dakota, and he attended the University of Idaho-Southern Branch from 1932-1933. He went on to attend George Williams College in Chicago, Illinois where he received his B.S. degree in physical education in 1938. He served as a physical instructor for the Chicago Park District from 1937-1938, assistant physical director for the YMCA of Fort Wayne, Indiana from 1938-1941, associate physical director for the YMCA of Kansas City, Missouri from 1941-1942, and physical director for the YMCA of Omaha, Nebraska from 1942-1943. Jake served on active duty in the U.S. Navy from 1943-1945 as a petty officer first class with specialization in physical conditioning and rehabilitation. Following his active duty in the U.S. Navy, Jake attended the University of Illinois-Urbana where he received his M.S. degree in physical education in 1947 and the Ph.D. degree in physical education in 1950. Jake served as a research laboratory assistant under the late Thomas K. Cureton at the University of Illinois-Urbana from 1946-1950. He was co-author with his mentor, T.K. Cureton, of a seminal volume titled Physical Fitness of Championship Athletes in 1951, and this pioneering book became a classic in the exercise and sport sciences. He was appointed assistant professor of physical education at the University of Wisconsin in 1950, and he was promoted to associate professor in 1956. Jake was promoted to professor of physical education in 1968, and remained in this position until his retirement as emeritus professor after the fall semester of the 1979-80 academic year.

Jake served as the coordinator of the graduate program in physical education for many years. This program attracted students from all over the world, and it was universally recognized as the leading graduate training program in the exercise sciences during this period. In addition to playing an important administrative role in the graduate program, Jake also taught undergraduate courses in measurement and kinesiology until the time of his retirement.

Jake was an active member of the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (AAHPER), and he served as a member of the executive committee of the association's Research Council. He was also a fellow in the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), and he served as the acting executive secretary of ACSM for one term. He also played an active role in the editing and publication of the Encyclopedia of Sports Medicine.

Jake was active in refereeing area high school track, football and basketball events, and he was an avid Badgers fan. Jake was a charter member of Bethany United Methodist Church, and he was active in the Kiwanis Club. After retirement, Jake and "Lolly" traveled extensively abroad, and they lived in Florida for a period before returning to the Madison area on a permanent basis. Jake and Lolly often hosted social gatherings for faculty, staff and students, and many international students were welcomed into their home for Thanksgiving dinner and other holidays.

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Jake had a wry sense of humor, and his list of brief, one-line stories defined his warm and outgoing personality. He participated in the faculty bowling league, the faculty golf league, the faculty fitness program, and he never missed a Roundtable Talk and Luncheon at the Great Hall in the Memorial Union. It is fair to say that Jake was regarded as a character by many who had contact with him, but we think of him as a man devoted to his family, students, and the University of Wisconsin.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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