

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

**ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS SOLOMON B. LEVINE**

Solomon Bernard Levine, professor emeritus of economics and business and one of the nation's foremost experts on Japanese labor relations died of natural causes on October 3, 2006 at age 86 in Madison, Wisconsin. Sol, as he was known by everyone, was widely respected by scholars, and his book *Labor Relations in Postwar Japan* was considered a landmark in the field, influencing a generation of Asian scholars.

Sol Levine was a naval intelligence officer in WWII and learned to speak Japanese as part of the war effort. While in the language program, he met his wife, Betty, also a naval intelligence officer. Levine participated in the Okinawa landing and, later, the occupation of Japan where he served as a translator for the Japanese admiral/engineer who led the team that designed the battleship Yamato.

After receiving a B.A. and an M.B.A. from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in economics from M.I.T., Levine was hired as an assistant professor at the University of Illinois and began researching Japanese labor relations although he was warned that there was very little interest in Japan. During the years he taught at the University of Illinois, he also served as the director of the Asian Studies Center.

In 1969, Sol joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin in Madison where he had appointments in the International Business Department of the School of Business, the Department of Economics, and the Industrial Relations Research Institute. He served as chair of the East Asian Studies Program from 1969 to 1985, and he also served several terms as chair of the International Business Department and was active in the Center for International Business Education and Research. Sol was the recipient of a Fulbright Award in Japan from 1953 to 1954.

Based on his long-term work and understanding of the Japanese society, Levine's work often ran counter to popular beliefs. For example, Japan's postwar boom was often attributed to an extraordinarily loyal and docile workforce; Levine demonstrated that Japanese workers were as likely to strike as American workers. And he contended that the supposed cradle to grave job security offered by Japanese corporations was myth—long before the economic decline of the 1990s demonstrated this on a widespread basis.

Sol is survived by his wife, Betty (née Elizabeth Billett); four children, Jan Levin Thal, Samuel Levine, Michael Levine, and Elliott Levine; and six grandchildren, Jeremy Thal, Sean Levine, Sybil Levine, Reed Levine, Joshua Levine, and Zoe Levine.

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