

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ROBERT V. PHILLIPS

Professor Robert Victor Phillips was born August 11, 1919 in Madison, WI. He served his country and then the University of Wisconsin from 1955 until he retired in 1985. Professor Phillips died May 9, 2007, leaving his wife Lucille of Madison; three children (Vicky Lettow of Sugar Grove, IL; Kathy Anderson of Cottage Grove, and Bob Phillips of Madison); and seven grandchildren.

After his military service (Pacific Theater, 1940-1945), and a brief stint teaching high school graphics classes in Sheboygan, Professor Phillips was appointed instructor in the UW-Madison Department of Engineering Graphics in 1955 to teach his specialty of architectural drawing. His strong, steady contributions to the department advanced him to full-time assistant professor in 1959, associate professor in 1966, and full professor in 1972. He served as chair of engineering graphics from 1966 until 1970.

Professor Phillips' formal education included a BS and an MS in industrial education from UW-Stout (1952). He earned professional engineer status in 1965, an impressive feat for someone whose education was in architecture, industrial education, and graphics.

Throughout his teaching career, Professor Phillips maintained a productive consulting career with several firms, most notably Strang Partners, Inc. along with architectural firms led by Eugene Wasserman and E.A. Stubenbrauch. Professor Phillips contributed to the design of many prominent buildings in the Midwest, including the Falk Elementary School in Madison, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on Regent Street in Madison, the St. John United Church of Christ in Freeport, Illinois, the Chalet Gardens apartments in Madison, and the downtown Madison Public Library.

Those who knew Professor Phillips as a colleague remember him as an extraordinarily gentle, quiet, but warm good-humored man who treated teaching as a calling. Those who don't remember the Department of Engineering Graphics may remember the Department of General Engineering, which it became in 1971, located in the white WWII building (T24) just west of the Mechanical Engineering Building on University Avenue. This department's faculty, which revered Professor Phillips as a colleague, consisted of an eclectic mix of educators whose sole responsibility was teaching service courses to engineering undergraduates. In Professor Phillips case, it was interior design undergraduates that he taught; they were required to take General Engineering 160, Architectural Drawing, for their degrees. Professor Phillips' classroom hummed with quiet efficiency as students, most all of them female, worked diligently on drawings of well designed, well rendered dream houses. He also taught classes in civil engineering and mechanical engineering drawing.

After his death, his family found among his prized possessions a seating chart listing the attendees at his retirement party held in 1985. Professor Phillips greatly appreciated the collegiality of his co-workers and greatly contributed to the caring, student-focused atmosphere that permeated the department. In his retirement, Professor Phillips frequented the Nielsen Tennis Stadium and the Hill Farms Swim Club, where his lean body served him well, as he continued his quiet, unassuming life style that included socializing with many university-related friends. Professor Phillips is truly missed by his family and former colleagues.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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