

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

ON THE DEATH OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS JOHN W. HARVEY

John Wright Harvey, associate professor emeritus of organ and carillon and former university carillonneur, died on December 31, 2009 following a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.

John was born in Marion, Indiana, on June 15, 1919. He began piano study at age 8, trombone at age 14, and organ at age 15. He completed a bachelor of music degree from Oberlin Conservatory in 1941. The degree was awarded in absentia since John was stationed aboard a destroyer participating in the Battle of Midway. While in the Navy, John served as a musician, a signalman, and a quartermaster. He survived the loss of the USS Atlanta, sunk off Guadalcanal in November 1942.

After the war, John received a bachelor's degree in music education from Oberlin in 1946 and a master's degree from the School of Sacred Music at Union Theological Seminary in 1952. His master's thesis was on the history and development of the organ in the chapel at West Point. In 1974-75, Professor Harvey pursued further study at the Nederlandse Beiaardschool (Netherlands Carillon School) in Amersfoort.

Before coming to Madison, he served the First Presbyterian Church in Englewood, New Jersey; Webb Horton Memorial Presbyterian Church in Middletown, New York; Central Union Church in Honolulu; and National City Christian Church in Washington, DC.

John Wright Harvey joined the faculty at University of Wisconsin-Madison in September 1960 as assistant professor of organ and university carillonneur. In his 24 years on the faculty, he oversaw the 1963 expansion of the UW Memorial Carillon to a total of 51 bells with new claviers, a further expansion in 1973 to 56 bells, and the installation of the Austin Organ, Opus 2498, in Eastman Organ Recital Hall in the Humanities Building (1969). He taught organ and carillon to both undergraduate and graduate students, retiring in June 1984.

Professor Harvey was an active organ recitalist. He served as consultant and advisor to a number of churches throughout southern Wisconsin on purchases of new organs and played a major role in the design and installation of the Austin organ at First United Methodist Church, Madison. In Madison, he was organist at First Congregational Church, First Baptist Church, and First United Methodist Church.

Professor Harvey's presence on the UW-Madison campus was clearly heard (though not seen) from the UW-Madison Memorial Carillon during his regular Sunday afternoon recitals and other special presentations. Many recall his open invitation to climb the tower stairs to see the carillon's clavier and bells along with the vista across Lake Mendota. The Memorial Carillon was the focal point for the 1984 national convention of The Guild of Carillonneurs in North America, an event organized by him.

Beginning in 1947, John was active in the American Guild of Organists. In 1952, he organized the Northern Valley Chapter in Englewood, New Jersey, serving as dean for its first three years and as scholarship chairman for two years. In 1958, he was secretary of the Washington, DC, chapter. In Madison, John was dean of the AGO chapter there from 1964 to 1966. In 1953-56, John contributed to the *American Organist*, including a three-issue story on the West Point organ. In Madison and beyond the university, John was active as well.

John Harvey's interests beyond music included his beloved 1932 Chevy roadster, Clarissa, and his large model railroad. He also collected LP disc recordings of all kinds from the early 1900s.

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John married Jean Cochran on May 25, 1945, and was survived by her as well as by three daughters, Ann, Carol, and Jane, and a brother.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

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John Chappell Stowe, chair