

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS JAMES J. MCCARTHY

James McCarthy, professor emeritus of special education, died in Middleton on April 6, 2012 at the age of 84. Professor McCarthy was dedicated to the field of special education and to individuals with disabilities. During his 30-year tenure at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he was an active member of the Department of Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education, serving as the department chair and as a mentor for young faculty and promising scholars.

Tremendously kind, a true gentleman, calm, wise, humble, hard working, dependable, trustworthy, empathetic – these are only some of the qualities often used to describe Professor McCarthy. It is clear that he welcomed challenges and was reliable at reaching solutions. He thoroughly enjoyed interactions with his students and provided them with his invaluable expertise in reliability and measurement tools.

James McCarthy was born on May 20, 1927 in Gary, Indiana. His family moved to Milwaukee where he completed high school and eventually pursued both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, respectively. He completed his doctoral degree at the University of Illinois. In addition to pursuing degrees in higher education, he joined the U.S. Navy. He was stationed in Guam and eventually served as an ensign in the Naval Reserve.

His professional career started in Milwaukee as a teacher for students who were then referred to as "educable mentally retarded." Once he became a professor at UW-Madison, he achieved several professional accomplishments such as co-authoring assessment tools, books, and research articles. In collaboration with Samuel A. Kirk, known for coining the term "learning disabilities," and Winifred D. Kirk, Professor McCarthy assisted in the development of the Illinois Test of Psycholinguistic Abilities (ITPA). This assessment measured the ability of children, aged 4 to 8, to acquire and use language. First published in 1961, the ITPA is now in its third edition. Additionally, Professor McCarthy authored a book titled *Learning Disabilities*, which highlighted etiology, differential diagnosis and educational procedures used with this population of students.

Professor McCarthy was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather. His wife (Joan), their three children (Peggy, Patricia, and James), and five grandchildren (Emily, Sarah, Emmett, Kathryn, and Caroline) survive him. While his contributions to the field of special education will never be forgotten, he will be greatly missed.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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