

---

**Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison  
On the Death of Professor Emeritus Edward Beyers Buxton**

Professor Emeritus Edward Beyers Buxton was a faculty member in the Division of Continuing Studies' Department of Health and Human Issues (now Liberal Arts & Applied Studies) from 1967 until his retirement in 1991. Ed passed away peacefully at his home on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at the age of 94.

Ed was born on February 28, 1924 in Waterloo, Iowa, after his mother was brought to the hospital by horse-drawn sled. He was the only child of Hulda Rachel Byers Buxton and Edward James Buxton. Ed grew up on a farm outside of Waterloo and attended local country schools before joining the U.S. Navy in 1944. He served two years stationed in Japan.

Following his honorable discharge, Ed attended the University of Iowa and graduated in 1949. He married his wife, Shirley Eileen Buxton on August 7, 1950, in Iowa City. They moved to Cincinnati, where Ed received a master's degree in social work from Ohio State University in 1951. His first professional position was as a social worker for the Wisconsin Child Center in Sparta. He then served as a social worker for Winnebago County in Oshkosh. His next position was as a social work supervisor in Juneau for Dodge County.

In 1967 Ed took a position as associate professor of social work with UW-Extension at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and provided continuing education for social workers throughout the State. Ed continued to live in Beaver Dam, commuting daily to Madison. He retired in 1991 as a full professor.

Ed made numerous significant contributions to support the professional development of social workers and other human service professionals in Wisconsin. He developed workshops on a range of topics for thousands of human service professionals. Of particular note, Ed served as program director for a workshop on child sexual abuse in 1984 and found strong interest among professionals in the community for training on this topic. Feeling that there was a need for a more comprehensive forum to address topics related to child sexual abuse, Ed contacted Jill Cohen Kolb, director of the community-based organization, Family Sexual Abuse Treatment, Inc. (FSAT), as a source for expertise on the topic and a potential partner with whom to plan and coordinate a conference that could address a variety of child sexual abuse topics. As a result, they launched the Midwest Conference on Child Sexual Abuse in 1985 at the Concourse Hotel in downtown Madison. The conference grew over the years, and from 1986 to 1989 moved to the Sheraton Hotel; continued growth required a move to the Marriott-Madison West, an even larger facility, in 1990 through 2016. With Ed's retirement in 1991, Professor James Campbell became "the new Ed Buxton" and served as conference director continuing the child sexual abuse conference legacy Ed had started. The Midwest Conference on Child Sexual Abuse provided thousands of social workers and other human service workers with knowledge and skills to work with individuals, families, and communities on this important topic.

One of Ed's colleagues commented that Ed didn't move too far away from farms or small country schools, and certainly didn't move away from his commitment to small town life. Ed recognized the importance of having highly trained and skilled human service professionals working with families in rural areas as well as urban centers. In addition to his commitment to individuals, families, and communities, Ed was a kind, compassionate, caring, and thoughtful

colleague with a wonderful sense of humor. In short, Ed was a good guy department members appreciated having as a colleague.

Ed and Shirley Buxton had five children, including Edward “Tim” Timothy (Mary Kay Anderson) of Albuquerque, Kevin J. Buxton (Bonnie) of Fond du Lac, Jennifer M. Buxton (Dennis) of Madison, Cynthia E. Kostick (Kevin) of Wauwatosa, and Eric C. Buxton (Julie) of Madison. In addition, Ed and Shirley have 16 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Ed took enormous pleasure in family activities, including travels in the United States, Europe and Africa. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, reading, studying history and archaeology, gardening, music and walking. Ed loved and cherished his 67 years of marriage to Shirley.

As a long-time member of Trinity United Methodist Church, Ed served on various committees, taught high school and adult Sunday school classes, and was on the board of Church Health Services. He joined Toastmasters, was president of the Wisconsin Human Relations Council, served on the Williams Free Library board, and was an officer of the National Association of Social Workers.

Ed’s obituary eloquently summarized his approach to life and the legacy he leaves: “Ed lived an optimistic, productive and fulfilling life, highlighted by a continual appreciation for learning, insatiable curiosity about human nature and the world, and a never-ending compassion for those in need.” Ed is remembered fondly by his former colleagues.

Memorial Resolution Committee:  
Narra Smith Cox, Chair  
Jim Campbell