MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
ROBERT W. HATTERY
(January 5, 1925 – October 21, 2012)

Robert Wilbur Hattery was born January 5, 1925 in Chicago and died October 21, 2012 in Grand Marais, Minnesota. He is survived by his wife of twenty-seven years, Eleanor; children, David, Lor Reddoch, and John; step-sons, Jeff, Allan, and Mark; and a sister, Suzanne Hattery. A celebration of Bob’s life convened in late October at the Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery in Grand Marais.

A U.S. Army infantryman, Bob was wounded in the campaign to recapture the Philippine Islands and was awarded a Purple Heart. After the war he attended the University of Chicago, graduating in 1948. He subsequently earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the same institution. His 1961 Ph.D. thesis, entitled “The World Affairs Activities of Wisconsin Statewide Voluntary Activities,” was the basis for a report on that subject published by the University of Wisconsin’s extension service.

Bob joined the faculty at Indiana University Bloomington in 1962, after a brief teaching stint at the University of Wisconsin. American foreign policy was the focus of his research and teaching; Bob was particularly interested in the role of public opinion in shaping American policies and interactions with other nations. His earliest work explored the impact of racial and ethnic prejudice on American policy. Later he became interested in raising Americans’ awareness of international issues, with a goal of improving the policies chosen by their representatives.

Such practical concerns were reflected in Bob’s dual appointment at IUB. He was an adjunct member of the Department of Government, which was later renamed the Department of Political Science. Bob’s principal responsibilities, however, were in the Bureau of Public Discussion, which was in the Division of University Extension, and then became part of the Division of Continuing Studies.

Founded in 1914, the Bureau of Public Discussion functioned as a lending library for the entire state, until this type of service was developed through the Indiana State Library. The Bureau collected materials and lent package libraries consisting of materials from recent books, pamphlets, reports, official documents, and magazine and newspaper articles on topics of current interest. Besides materials on current affairs, files on biography, fine arts, geography, travel and science were also kept up to date with new publications. Aiming to stimulate intelligent discussion of current political, economic and social questions, the Bureau assisted civic discussion clubs, debating societies, and literary clubs with recommendations regarding organizational procedures and suitable questions for debate and topics for study, and with bibliographies on current issues.

From the time of his arrival in 1962 until his retirement in 1987 Bob Hattery was Director of the Bureau of Public Discussion. Operating within in the Division of Continuing Education after 1968, the Bureau maintained an extensive library of about a half-million publications of
predominantly non-book reading materials focusing on contemporary public affairs. At the time this was one of the largest collections of materials on current affairs in the United States. The Bureau also regularly convened conferences, seminars, workshops, and non-credit short courses on topics of current interest. Furthermore, for those individuals or groups unable to attend meetings away from home, the Bureau developed a number of home-study programs which included guided readings, structured group discussions, and analytical writing exercises.

For his accomplishments Bob was promoted to associate professor 1966. He retired in 1987 as associate professor of Continuing Studies and adjunct associate professor emeritus of Political Science. He was President of the IUB Men’s Faculty Club in 1988, continuing his participation in faculty affairs and faculty governance on campus. As late as 1985 Bob served on the External Relations Committee of the Bloomington Faculty Council.

Bob and Eleanor moved to Grand Marais on the North Shore of Lake Superior in 1988. There they continued the work of enlightening public opinion, founding the North Shore Public Discussion Opportunities Program. Their home was on the Gunflint Trail, surrounded by the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. In 1934 Bob took his first canoe trip in the area and developed a life-long passion for portaging and paddling the “voyageurs highway,” the central artery of the French, British, and American fur trade. Bob was able to indulge his passion for the woods during retirement, without abandoning his belief in the power of public discussion to improve our social affairs.

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