Be it resolved that on February 2, 2007, the faculty and staff of the College of Education at the University of Maryland honor the life and professional career and acknowledge the death of Robert V. Duffey, who died on Feb. 26, 2006, in Martinsburg, West Virginia.

Robert Duffey was born Jan. 31, 1915, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Millersville State College in 1938, and his master's of education in English and education administration from Temple University. He graduated in 1954 with his Ed.D. in elementary education, also from Temple. He was a veteran of World War II, having served in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

His first teaching job was in a one-room rural school in Lancaster County in 1938. Before joining the University of Maryland as chair of the Department of Elementary Education and professor in 1963, he taught at Millersville State College, Temple University and the University of Delaware. He taught reading and social sciences in the Department of Elementary Education, and was part of the college’s Reading Center. In addition to teaching and advising, he helped produce a series of videotapes to be used by pre-service teacher education students and teacher aides on the subject of assisting children with reading. He was widely published and served on numerous committees inside and outside the college. He assisted with preparation for NCATE visits and served on various Middle States Association accreditation teams. He was a lifelong member of Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Sigma Pi, Phi Delta Kappa, and Psi Chi honoraries.

He insightful comments and dry wit are evident in his written request for a sabbatical in 1978, when he also announced his plans to retire in 1980: “Just thinking about retirement produces a tremor,” he wrote. “But like its baldness, sagging tissues, and grandchildren, advanced age brings also its time for vacating a budget line.”

Once his retirement was accepted by his department chair, Bob received a letter thanking him for his 17 years of service to the College of Education. The letter noted that Bob had served as a teacher, scholar, administrator, planner, faculty counselor and student advisor, and on “certain occasions, as prime minister and leader of the loyal opposition.” Bob retired in 1980, and was granted emeritus status in 1983.

Memorial services for Robert V. Duffey were held April 22, 2006, in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. He is survived by his children, David Duffey and Barbara Weller, four grandchildren, and five brothers.

The College of Education extends its condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

February 2, 2007