Memorial Resolution
William L. “Bud” Thomas, Jr.

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 William L. “Bud” Thomas, longtime University of Maryland vice president of student affairs and affiliate faculty member in the Department of Counseling and Personnel Services in the College of Education.

Bud passed away Nov. 6, 2006, at the age of 74, following a stroke. Memorial services were held Jan. 1, 2007, at the University Chapel. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Betsy, daughter Marci, and son William, his sister, LaVerne, and one niece. He was born Feb. 12, 1932 in Knoxville, Tenn. He earned his B.S. degree in 1955 and his M.S. degree in 1966, both from the University of Tennessee. He holds a Ph.D. in higher education administration from Michigan State University. He served in the U.S. Army rising to the rank of Captain, and was posted in Germany.

Before coming to College Park in 1972, Bud had been assistant dean of students and director of residence halls at Tennessee, and also worked at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley as director of housing. He assumed the position of director of residential life when he joined the university, and was promoted to vice president of student affairs in 1975. During his career of nearly 30 years, he worked for six university presidents. In his position, he managed 15 units and oversaw the renovation and construction of several campus facilities: the Stamp Student Union, the Eppley Recreation Center, the Golf Course Club House, the Health Center, and several sorority and fraternity houses. He also served a stint as acting athletic director.

He was active in several professional associations including the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators and the American College Personnel Association. He founded the Maryland Student Affairs Conference, the longest running regional conference in the field. For more than 20 years, Bud was an affiliate assistant professor in the Department of Counseling and Personnel Services, teaching a number of courses including the doctoral capstone seminar. Among his many awards and honors, he was the recipient of the President’s Medal in 2000, the highest award bestowed on campus. The Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society lecture series was named for Bud upon his retirement in 2000.

Shortly after his retirement, former Dean Edna Szynanski asked Bud to join the Dean’s Office as a consultant, working on special projects and initiatives. Working with college administrators and volunteers, he helped organize the national conference on minority achievement on behalf of the Maryland Institute for Minority Achievement and Urban Education in 2002. He served on a number of committees, and served as counsel to the dean and members of his staff.

Bud’s many friends and colleagues will miss his “larger than life” personality. He loved to discuss issues, was a good listener, and served as mentor to many individuals at Maryland and across the country. Bud was an avid golfer, and as a tribute to his love of the sport and devotion to the university, the Golf Course Clubhouse has been dedicated and named the William L. Thomas, Jr., Room. Bud will be remembered for his integrity, sensitivity, and the value he placed on the student experience. His sudden passing has left a void in the lives of his family, friends and colleagues.

The College of Education extends condolences to Bud’s family, friends and colleagues.

February 2, 2007