

## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

Robert E. Wise

April 25, 1917 -- August 25, 1999

Robert Elliott Wise, Professor Emeritus and one of the University's most faithful friends, died on August 25, 1999 in Fort Wayne as a result of heart failure. He will be greatly missed, not only by his family but also by his friends and colleagues in the Department of Physics, in the School of Arts and Sciences, and in the University which he served so ably during his 34 years of employment and which he befriended for 17 years thereafter.

Robert Wise was born in Terre Haute and received his B.S. in Physics and Chemistry from Indiana State University in 1939. He also obtained a Life License in Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics for Indiana secondary schools; but his planned teaching career was interrupted by World War II. Bob joined the Army and went ashore at Normandy on the third day after D-day with his unit, the 81<sup>st</sup> Mortar Battalion. He served with distinction through the rest of the war in Europe, once having his jeep blown out from under him. He regularly attended the reunions of his unit and was an active American Legion member.

After the war Bob attended Indiana University and received an M.S. in Physics in 1948. In that same year he began his long university career in Fort Wayne, beginning as an Instructor at Indiana University at a site located downtown at that time. With steady promotions he became Associate Professor with tenure in 1962. His patience and love for students led to his half-time job as Coordinator of Advising and Academic Advisor for all incoming students in the School of Science and Humanities. Students often expressed their appreciation for the time he was willing to take with them, never rushing them into any decisions. Other advisors often relied upon his incredibly detailed knowledge and memory concerning the many intricacies of program requirements at IPFW.

As a teacher, Bob Wise was known for his fairness, dry sense of humor, and depth of knowledge which came from his extensive reading. Colleagues often observed that while eating out, or at Friday happy hours, Bob would be approached by former students who recognized him and wanted to thank him for teaching or advising them, sometimes by placing a filled glass or pitcher down before him. Many students also benefited from his service for two decades as Director or Assistant Director of the Regional Science Fair. In the Department of Physics, Bob was a source of stability and wise counsel, often acting as a useful brake on the tendencies of some faculty to overreact to a situation. After retirement in 1982, Bob helped out the Department for two years by teaching half time. Even after full retirement, he maintained close contact by visiting two or three times per week for lunch and by attending many social activities of the Department, School, and University. He generously contributed each year to the upgrade of Physics laboratory equipment and established two named scholarships for students in the School of Arts and Sciences.

Bob was quite thrifty and not a fan of what he considered to be unnecessary technology, never buying an answering machine for his phone and using a party line for many years. He did love trains, trying different restaurants, traveling alone in Europe, and buying a new car every few years.

When his colleagues think of the meaning of loyalty, discretion, wise counsel, trustworthiness, honesty, and integrity in academics, the name of Robert Wise will always come to mind.