

Proposition: 39-16/17 - A Memorial in Honor of Clyde Eastman

Date Submitted: 3.22.17

Sponsor(s): Brown (A&S), Libbin (ACES *Emeritus*), Peach (CoB), Ellis (CoB *Emeritus*), Waelti (ACES *emeritus*), Williams (A&S *Emeritus*)

Proposed Committee: We request that this be heard as Emergency Legislation.

Proposition:

Dr. Clyde Eastman, Associate Professor of Rural Sociology Emeritus, in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business, died Saturday, February 4, 2017 at the age of 80. His wife Wanda (Professor Emeritus of Human Nutrition) was beside him as he passed.

Clyde was an Iowa farm boy; despite all of his travels, his contributions to New Mexico State University, to the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, to his community and world, as well as to his profession of rural sociology, were many. First and foremost, he was an Iowa farm boy who never forgot his roots or who he really was. A lifelong liberal and Democrat, Clyde enjoyed a good political debate with his oftentimes more conservative friends (including a certain colleague who would one day become an NMSU president). Clyde had a quick wit and a great sense of humor, developing many friendships across campus, as well as in the wider community.

Always a voice of calmness and discussion, Clyde always referred to his department colleagues as a Community of Scholars. Disagreement was acceptable, as were debate and discussion, but at the end of the day, we all remained a community. Clyde lived his principles.

Clyde was born July 1, 1936, in Des Moines, Iowa. Clyde graduated from a one-room rural school in 1950, from Corydon High School in 1954, and from Iowa State University in 1958. He then went on to pursue and earn an MS degree from the University of Hawaii and a PhD from Cornell University. Clyde leaves three daughters (Kristin Kahala, Evadne Elise, and Chelsea), two step-daughters (Sara Elizabeth and Holly Robin), and his loving wife, Wanda Eastman.

Clyde was a rural sociologist and a lifelong student of cultures. He served with International Voluntary Service in Vietnam from 1959 to 1961, and he worked with North Carolina State University on an agricultural development project in Puno, Peru from 1963 to 1965. Clyde joined the faculty at New Mexico State University on July 1, 1968 and continued to do rural development work in New Mexico and abroad. He lived with his family and worked in The Gambia and Jordan, and did short-term assignments in several other countries. At New Mexico State University, Clyde taught courses in rural sociology and in world food security, and he conducted research in rural development issues across New Mexico.

Clyde considered the two years that he served as Chair of the New Mexico State University Faculty Senate to be one of the highlights of his professional career. That experience allowed him to appreciate the institution in a broad context. He retired from New Mexico State University on February 1, 2000, after more than 31 years of service.

By this memorial, the NMSU Faculty Senate honors and applauds Clyde's many contributions to NMSU and the rural sociology and agricultural research community, and also extends our deepest condolences and sympathies to Clyde's loving family.

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