

Montford H.R. Sayce

Final copy to include: Dr. Montford H.R. (Bunny) Sayce, a longtime resident of Henniker, died in Hillsborough House, Hillsborough, on July 1, 2012.

Dr. Montford H. R. Sayce (Bunny), husband of Athena Anne Sayce, was born July 21, 1921 in Chicago, Illinois, and raised in Charlestown, New Hampshire. He was the son of Archibald H. and Dorothy (Holton) Sayce. After graduating from Deerfield Academy in 1940, he earned his A.B. from Dartmouth College, Class of '44. He served in the US Army Office of Strategic Services from 1942-45 as Communications Officer in the South East Asia Command in charge of intelligence communications between the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Admiral Lord Mountbatten. He returned to Dartmouth to complete his coursework in 1947 and entered Cornell Law School, receiving his J.D. Degree in 1950. He worked as an attorney with Buckley and Zoph in Claremont, NH, becoming a partner in 1954.

Bunny pursued a career change to teach, leaving the law and earned his Master's Degree in Education and completed his doctoral studies in Asian Studies at the University of California at Berkeley. Upon returning East, Bunny taught at the School of International Relations in Royalton, VT., and became a member of the New England College faculty in 1969, where he founded the Department of Political Science. During his 30 years as Professor of Political Science, he coached thirty-seven Model United Nations Delegations. Kofi Annan, the Secretary General of the U.N. commended Bunny for his deep involvement and support of the Model United Nations Delegations, inspiring hundreds of New England College students to better understand the issues facing the international community. During his early years at the college he represented NEC on the New Hampshire Consortium Council of Colleges and Universities and the N.H. Foreign Affairs Council and was a loyal advocate and faculty member for LINEC – the Learning Institute of New England College - which continues to support learning for adults in the greater Henniker region.

Bunny served as Director of the New England College British campus in Arundel, Sussex, England from 1975-77. While there he brought about many improvements to the campus, including substantially increasing student enrollment, adding 55 new courses, increasing the number of majors, improving relations with the town of Arundel, and instituting many student clubs and activities.

A student-oriented professor, Bunny referred to students as 'Mr. or Miss' in the classroom, and kept his office unlocked so students would always have a place to go at any time. Students who frequented his comfortable and inviting office often called themselves 'Sayceans' and formed life-long friendships with their professor. When artist William Scarlato was commissioned by NEC to create a work of art for its 40th Anniversary Celebration that best represented the spirit of the college, he chose to do an etching of Bunny's office, because he felt there was a warmth and friendliness there – a sense that people come and go and work in Bunny's office, that it had a "collegiate atmosphere".

Bunny held some of his seminar classes in their home which encouraged discussion. His style of teaching inspired students to formulate and articulate their own theories and beliefs. He was a nurturer of students. Bunny felt that his greatest accomplishments were to excite students in the classroom by using a methodology that enhanced dialogue and critical thinking. He often stated that, "...life together with Anne was the motivational and sustaining force for making this possible...."

During his tenure at New England College, Bunny was generously acknowledged for his teaching skills, commitment to enhancing his students views of the world and participating where possible in a variety of leadership roles. Some of the awards he received included: an Honorary Degree from New England College in 1996 which stated that, "-innovation in both teaching and administration has been the hallmark of your commitment to academic life-" and, the Outstanding Faculty of the Year award in 1994, which is given to a faculty member who demonstrates outstanding, creative and innovative teaching strategies for students and personifies and maintains high academic standards for himself and his students. Bunny was actively involved in the life of the College and served as a role model to students and colleagues, and in 1986 both Anne and Bunny received the Troy Award given by the Troy family in memory of their son, Bill Troy '52 who died in the Korean War in 1953 while going to the aid of a

comrade. This award exemplifies the life and attributes of William Troy---service, dedication and leadership. Bunny also received an Honorary Alumni Award in 1991 which is presented to one or more deserving non-alumni members of the New England College community who have demonstrated loyalty, interest and service in the spirit of New England College.

Bunny and Anne married in July 1961 at the Martha Mary Chapel in Sudbury, MA. He considered their marriage one of the two best decisions in his life...the other to teach at New England College. As ardent Anglophiles, he and Anne entertained a traditional Boxing Day Open House each Christmas for over 40 years to the delight of their friends. Bunny was a gifted landscape gardener and an avid reader, especially of books on history, Buddhism, and George Washington and maintained a large library. He enjoyed classical music and summer visits to Tanglewood and was fascinated with the art of being a conductor! He and Anne had the pleasure of extensive travel over their life together, summers on their sacred Loon Island with family and friends, enjoyed stimulating conversation and always the pleasure of dancing together!

As a young man Bunny was an active member of the Unitarian Church in Charlestown, NH. He developed a church youth group and active Boy Scout Troop; served on the Board of Directors for the Connecticut River National Bank and the Charlestown School Board and local town government committees. He was an avid skier, squash player, swimmer, horse-back riding/showing and loved their cairn terriers and swans, geese and ducklings...A man for all seasons!

Bunny is universally known for his self-effacing manner and, his genuine regard for others, often exhibited by an uncanny recall of past students' names and always his easy smile and ready sense of humor. Students recall how he lectured his Chinese seminar classes on the Asian virtue of "moderation in all things" while he slyly indulged his fondness for cookies and other Occidental pleasures.

Bunny was predeceased by his brother, Archibald Herbert Sayce who was killed in active duty on the last day of the Battle of the Bulge, WWII. In addition to his wife, Athena Anne, he leaves his sister Dorothy

Jane (Sayce) Falk, nephews Holton, Bradford and Jeffrey Falk and seven great nieces and nephews. He leaves many friends throughout the world and a legacy of New England College students who claim to owe their success to him.

A celebration of Bunny's life will be held at the Henniker Congregational Church on Saturday, July 21st, 2012 at 2 p.m. with a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Sayce Global Learning Fund, Office of Advancement, New England College, 98 Bridge Street, Henniker, NH 03242.

The Holt-Woodbury Funeral Home of Henniker, NH is in charge of the arrangements.

<http://www.holtwoodburyfh.com/onlineprearrangement.htm>.