

Memorial

Henry R. Winkler, Ph.D. 1916 – 2012

Henry Winkler was a brilliant educator and a true liberal who left us on December 26, 2012, at age 96. He is survived by his wife Bea, his son Allan, daughter Karen, stepsons Richard, Robert, and Kenneth, six grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. Henry was devastated when his first wife Clare died in 1972 of breast cancer at the age of 56; but was truly fortunate to have two marvelous life partners when Bea became his bride in 1973.

Born in Waterbury, Connecticut, Henry originally came to Cincinnati in 1933 to attend the University of Cincinnati. This was the beginning of his long and illustrious academic career. At the behest of Warren Bennis, then President of UC and former Literary Club member, he returned to the city with Bea in 1977 after serving as a Professor and later Acting President at Rutgers for 30 years. Bennis announced his resignation, and several months after his arrival, Henry became Acting President. When he proved his expertise in administration, guiding the University from a municipal to a state university, he was chosen as the 19th President of the University of Cincinnati before the year was out.

He joined the Club a year later and was a member for 34 years. Henry delivered 13 papers on a wide variety of subjects, including academic politics and fraud, education, and his military experiences. He was honored to give a paper at the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Club in 1999. With all his local, national, and international academic and administrative commitments, one wonders how he found the time to be the dedicated and regular member that he was.

Henry was a most fortunate father to be alive to hear his son Allan's very touching paean, **Give Me The Roses: A Homage to & Memoir of My Father** on May 14th last year; and Allan was a most fortunate son to be able to tell his father how much he loved him. Not many of us have gotten that chance, or used it so richly. If you did not hear it, we would encourage you to read it.

Jack McDonough and Steve Marine had the special joy of being associated with Henry in the **Henry R. Winkler Center for the History of the Health Professions** at the University Of Cincinnati College Of Medicine. That library, archive, and exhibit facility was named in his honor in March of 2009. He and Dr. Stan Troup, also a Club member, had saved the collection from destruction, and Henry was Chair or Vice-Chair for over 30 years. Throughout his career he looked at history as a tool to help shape our perspectives on today's events. He taught us that history matters; that getting and staying connected with our past and our heritage is important, even more so in times of great change and uncertainty like today. At our Executive Committee meetings, Steve recalls the raconteur and humorist, with the twinkle in his eye,

regaling us with an entertaining anecdote or tale, after ordering a “Dewar’s with a Splash.”

He was a social activist, but never waived his flag. Did you know that he marched with Dr. King in Montgomery, Alabama – probably not? Or that he helped salvage the career of a young professor at Rutgers, who was falsely accused by the House Un-American Activities Committee in the ‘50’s? Did you know that he came within a hair’s breadth of being killed by a Japanese Kamikaze at the Battle of Leyte Gulf?

Henry enlisted in the Navy in 1942 and became a Japanese Language officer. In October 1944, he reported to the USS Callaway (APA-35), an attack transport, After participating in the landings on Leyte, the Commodore offered him the opportunity to stay or reporting back to New Guinea for more translation duties. Because his new wife was pregnant and he had not heard from her in over a month, he departed. On the return voyage, the Callaway was caught in the middle of one of the greatest naval battles in history and a Kamikaze hit the bridge killing the Commodore and 25 others of Henry’s friends. His battle station was on the bridge.

Henry Winkler was a good and loving husband, father, and friend. He loved discussion – heated or otherwise and always respected the other side’s point of view. Education and writing were the driving forces in his life, and we of The Literary Club we’re most fortunate to have him with us as long as we did. It was a gift. We miss him

Respectively submitted,

Jack McDonough, M.D.
Steve Marine