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Memorial service to honor former dean of law school

Rachel Justis

Indiana Daily Student

Memorial services will be held today in Boston for the former IU School of Law Dean William Burnett Harvey. Harvey died Oct. 27 at the age of 77.

Harvey, a graduate of Wake Forest University, earned a law degree from the University of Michigan and had achieved a full professorship by the age of 34. He came to IU in 1966 and was dean of the law school until 1971.



Dean William Burnett Harvey

Former dean of law school

Professor Patrick Baude said Harvey was an internationally recognized scholar who brought to IU the vision of becoming a national law school.

"His deanship was a turning point in the history of this law school," Baude said. "His reputation attracted many young teachers and inspired them to do their best work."

Harvey did a number of things to improve the law school, said professor Douglass Boshkoff.

"His most notable achievement was the recruitment of fine faculty members," Boshkoff said.

Professor Edwin Greenebaum is one of several professors hired by Harvey who still teach at IU.

"I was a young faculty member, and he was very encouraging and supportive," Greenebaum said. "He was very much a part of the conversational and intellectual part of the school."

Boshkoff said Harvey was a good dean, and both the faculty and staff enjoyed working for him.

"He was a very kind, considerate person," Boshkoff said. "He was concerned for those who worked for him."

Greenebaum said Harvey often spent time with the professors in the faculty lounge and occasionally invit-

ed them to his home for dinner.

"He and his wife were very warm and gracious," Greenebaum said.

Harvey's deanship spanned the politically turbulent time of the Vietnam War when the atmosphere around campus was tense.

"Seeing the University through that time was something notable about his period of deanship," Greenebaum said.

Although a World War II veteran, Harvey was the first dean of a public law school to question the wisdom of American intervention in Vietnam, Baude said.

"He spoke out with dignity on behalf of academic freedom and, in fact, used his credibility with student leaders to defend the University from various left-wing attacks," Baude said.

Harvey often spoke with and listened to student activists. Before his death, he wrote an unpublished collection of works. And in this manuscript, Harvey mentions one occasion when he spoke with several student leaders who were in charge of a demonstration and took them to his office. He then convinced the administration to sit down and talk with these students. The dialogue that occurred between the two groups at that meeting essentially ended the planning of a potentially violent confrontation.

In his manuscript, Harvey said he always tried to give students, not agreement with all their views and demands, but openness and honesty.

After resigning his position at IU, Harvey taught at a university in Kenya because he was interested in the development of African nations. He also wrote several books on the emergence of the legal profession in underdeveloped countries. Harvey joined the faculty at Boston University Law School in 1973, retiring in 1987.

Memorial contributions are being made to Wake Forest University in North Carolina for the purpose of student financial aid.