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## UD Professor Emeritus Dies at Age 80

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# *The University of Dayton*

# *News Release*

UD PROFESSOR EMERITUS  
DIES AT AGE 80

DAYTON, Ohio, January 17, 1984 -- University of Dayton Professor Emeritus Robert Brendan O'Donnell died on Monday, January 16, of natural causes at Miami Valley Hospital. He was 80 years old.

Professor O'Donnell taught Irish literature in the University of Dayton Department of English. He joined the UD faculty as an assistant professor of history in 1951, after stopping in Dayton to visit the friend of a friend.

Born in Newfoundland, of parents originally from Waterford and Tipperary, O'Donnell taught high school and college for 32 years in Vancouver, British Columbia; Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Tampa, Florida, before "stopping in" Dayton. He was a graduate of St. Mary's College, Nova Scotia, and Fordham University, with both bachelor's and master's degrees in English and history.

At the University of Dayton, O'Donnell was known for his early work as moderator of the Monogram club for UD athletes, "abbot" of St. Joseph's Hall when it was a men's dormitory, former member of the selection committee for the Athletic Hall of Fame, and frequent reader of Gaelic verse with a distinctive Irish brogue. According to another UD professor and departmental colleague, "to generations of UD students, Bob O'Donnell was as much a part of UD as St. Mary's Hall, or the chapel, or the athletic teams that he has grumbled incantations over."

In the 1950s, O'Donnell also worked as a television newscaster for WLW-D in Dayton. He hosted "Culture Beat" on WLW-D in the 1960s.

-more-

ROBERT B. O'DONNELL

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Professor O'Donnell is survived by six children and eleven grandchildren. Sons Sean, Brendan, and Kevin, and daughters Estelle and Peggy do not live in the Dayton area. Daughter Maureen Becker, her husband Robert, and two children are residents of Oakwood. Maureen is employed in the Office of Graduate Studies at UD.

Visitation will be from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18, at Meyer and Boehmer Funeral Home, 1733 Brown Street. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, January 19, at 10 a.m. in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception on the University of Dayton campus. Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery.