William M. Talley: July 1, 1933 To July 8, 2009

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Volume 44, numéro 2, printemps 2009

URI : id.erudit.org/iderudit/039040ar
https://doi.org/10.7202/039040ar

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We were saddened to learn of the passing of William M. Talley in Kentucky, in July of this year.

Bill will be remembered as the long time editor of the McGill Journal of Education (from 1985 to 1999), and as a member of McGill University’s Faculty of Education Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology.

He will, however, be remembered for much more – here in Montreal, and back home in and around Vanceburg, KY, where he was born, where he returned upon retirement, and where he left this life.

Quoting from Ann Beer’s first editorial upon taking up the editorship of the MJE from Bill (Vol. 34 No. 2, Spring 1999):

“As a young adult, he studied theology and was ordained.... He then turned to a career in education and worked as an elementary teacher for eight years. Choosing graduate work in psychology, he became a specialist in child development.”

At the suggestion of his PhD supervisor at the Ohio State University, a Canadian, “he accepted a position at McGill, which was to remain his academic home for 30 years. Bill taught in, and for thirteen years directed, the Counselling Program in what is now McGill’s Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology. Among his achievements was the development of the course on gerontology, a variety of contributions to the Family Life program, and research to support therapists working with AIDS patients. This last commitment earned him recognition as an Associate of the School of Medicine. He supervised the research of a large number of PhD theses in his Department.”

Although he lived and worked in Canada, Kentucky remained an integral part of his life. He spent as much time as possible at his home in Vanceburg. His passion for the history and the genealogies of northeastern Kentucky resulted in newspaper articles published in the Lewis County Herald (www.lewiscountyherald.com/) and in several historical publications. Bill was a recognized expert on these subjects.

He is survived by his son Paul and by his lifelong companion, Vivian K. Talley.

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