



John H. Barcroft

December 3, 1937 - November 8, 2021

John H. Barcroft, 83, died November 8, 2021 in Fayetteville after a brief illness. Dr. Barcroft graduated from Brown University and earned a doctorate in history from the University of Minnesota. He taught at the University of Washington, Seattle, and at Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts. He was subsequently Provost of New College, Sarasota, Florida.

Most of his professional career was in management of the grant-making, administrative and financial operations of public and private foundations. He served in three of each: the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Science Foundation, National Institute of Education, Kemper Foundation, the Spencer Foundation and Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

At the National Endowment for the Humanities, he conceived and led in the establishment of state-based grant-making organizations in all 50 states, realized in Arkansas as the Arkansas Humanities Council. For this and other programs he received the Arthur Fleming Award for distinguished public service.

At the Kemper Foundation in Chicago, he supported over 30 colleges and universities, and mentored over 200 college undergraduates in the Kemper Scholars program. He also served as Vice-Chair of the Donors Forum of Chicago, the Chicago-area association of private and corporate foundations.

At the Carnegie Foundation he managed the relocation to California, restructured its administration and oversaw the construction of its new headquarters in the hills over the Stanford campus.

Dr. Barcroft was born in Memphis but spent many of his childhood summers with family in Arkansas. In 2003 he retired to Fayetteville, where he had owned farmland for over 20 years. He was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. He is survived by a nephew and niece. The family requests that memorials be sent to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 224 N. East Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701 or Willard Walker Hospice Home, 325 E. Lakeview Street, Fayetteville, AR 72703.

Comments



“ John was a friend to Roy and me for many years. We enjoyed going to Tulsa together for operas and ballets for years. Roy and I traveled to Cornwall with him. I volunteered with him from the beginning of its opening at the Willard Walker Hospice Home until I had to quit as a result of the pandemic. We went out to dinner or lunch about once a month. We talked orchids, cooking, St Paul's Episcopal Church, politics, books, and many other topics. He watered and fed my orchids while we were on vacation for two months every year. He was a wise man, a good friend, conversant in many topics, and so many good things I cannot name them all. I think of him and miss him every single day, and he was always in my prayers. Rest in peace, dear friend.

T Fuller

T Fuller - January 15 at 11:56 AM



“ John and Hugo are missed at Washington Regional Hospice... John was the first volunteer I met when I started as the Volunteer Program Manager almost 5 yrs ago. I spent some time with him during his last days and he said over and over to me that he was at peace and ready to go. I look forward to seeing you again one day John ~ thank you for being my friend.

Jacque Auxier - December 02, 2021 at 07:36 PM



“ Jacque Auxier lit a candle in memory of John H. Barcroft



Jacque Auxier - December 02, 2021 at 07:29 PM



“ I was Dr. Barcroft's attorney and was very proud to call him my friend. May he rest in peace. Richard Miller.

Richard Miller - December 02, 2021 at 05:05 PM



“ John was a fixture at Washington Regional Hospice. He was a premiere volunteer and kind presence in the office and Willard Walker Hospice Home. Although I've been gone from WRH for a year now, I remember him well. Soft-spoken. Clever. Dedicated to doing good. May he rest well with Christ.

Paul Woodhouse - November 23, 2021 at 10:16 AM