In Memoriam Reed Robert Durtschi 1926-2015

Professor emeritus Reed Durtschi passed away on August 13, 2015, in North Logan, Utah. Durtschi was raised on a dairy farm in Teton Valley and served in the Navy during World War II and the Army during the Korean War. He married Jean Blackburn in 1950. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Economics from Utah State University in 1952. He received a PhD in Economics from the University of Washington in 1957.

Dr. Durtschi was an Aggie through and through. Over 37 years he taught Economics to over 40,000 students, and was known for his enthusiasm and sense of humor in class.

He served as department chair in Economics from 1967-1971, but his heart was always in the classroom with his students. He insisted students learn to think for themselves rather than memorize answers.

Professor Durtschi was also engaged in the community and was elected and served on the North Logan City Council for six years. He also served three terms on the Cache County School Board from 1974-1986.

His favorite people to be with were his wife and children. He enjoyed hiking in the Tetons, camping, and always attended his children’s sports, musical and theatrical events. He was proud of all his children and often commented that he loved being able to ask them for advice.
“The world is a diverse place, every person is unique and every person you meet, educated or not, knows more about some things than you do; therefore you can learn from them. Learning from others is difficult. We all feel more comfortable listening only to people who agree with us. So, widen your circle of associates, and learn from them. Become a citizen of the world rather than merely a citizen of your small religious or political clan. In the final analysis, we are all brothers and sisters coexisting on this small globe. We are all dependent on each other for something. A cooperating group will always have a higher standard of living than one self-sufficient individual. So be concerned about the well-being of people who are not members of your small homogenous group.”
— Reed Durtschi