

Union Board suffers great loss

This year Union Board suffered a great loss with the death of Eugene D. Fletchall. Fletchall, known as “Gene” to his friends, served as Union Board director from 1932 to 1934. He was the president of the first Union Board to convene in the Indiana Memorial Union. Fletchall received his law degree from the IU School of Law, where he and his wife later established the Eugene D. Fletchall Fellowship in 1969.

Fletchall remained a committed member of the IU community, even while living outside of Bloomington, and he became actively involved with the IU Alumni Association, the IU Foundation, and the Indiana Memorial Union upon retiring to Bloomington in 1972. His vision and service to the IMU and the Union Board is felt by all who stroll through the Commemorative Garden outside of the IMU, by beneficiaries of the \$10,000 in annual scholarship funds for students who volunteer with Union Board, and by art lovers who visit the IMU to admire the many works preserved by the Art Guild.

In 2003, the Union Board honored Fletchall and his family with the renaming of the Union Board room in the Student Activities Tower of the IMU. The room is now called the Fletchall Room and is complete with artifacts, articles, and keepsakes contributed by Union Board and the Fletchall family.

Shortly after Fletchall’s memorial service, Union Board hosted a reception for present and past Union Board directors, friends of Union Board, and the friends and family of Fletchall to celebrate his life and legacy. Those in attendance shared their fond memories and thoughts about Fletchall and his contributions to the board, the IMU, and the IU Bloomington campus. He was truly committed to this community, and we are all better for it.

Memorial Resolution for Eugene D. Fletchall

Let it be known that beloved mentor Eugene Dalton Fletchall died Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2006, at the age of 97. With great respect and deep sorrow, the Indiana Memorial Union Board of Directors enters this Memorial Resolution into its official record.

• Whereas, Eugene D. Fletchall, as a student at Indiana University, was a member of the Board of Control of the Indiana Union from 1932 to 1934, serving as president of the 1933–34 board, during which time the Indiana Memorial Union building was built; and

• Whereas, He was a lifelong volunteer for the Indiana University Foundation, the Indiana University Alumni Association, as well as the Indiana Memorial Union and its board of directors; and

• Whereas, his propensity to serve others has been recognized with the Indiana University Distinguished Alumni Service Award, the Indiana University Law School Academy of Law Alumni Fellows honor, the Thomas Hart Benton Mural Medallion Award, the renaming of the Union Board Room to the Eugene D. Fletchall Room, the Distinguished Fiji Award, and as a Phi Gamma Delta Diamond Owl; and

• Whereas, his commitment to the longevity and vitality of the board was instrumental in founding the Union Board Scholarship Fund, the John Whittenberger Society Endowment Fund, the IMU Art Guild, and the Past Presidents’ Endowment Fund; and

• Whereas, he carried the lessons he learned and the friends he made from his involvement with Union Board throughout his life; and

• Whereas, Eugene D. Fletchall quietly, effectively, and with unassuming dignity served his alma mater for more than seven decades;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Indiana Memorial Union Board of Directors expresses its profound sadness at the passing of Eugene D. Fletchall. His tireless service and commitment to the Indiana Memorial Union, its board of directors, and the greater Indiana University community will be greatly missed. We pledge to continue his spirit of service and reverence for tradition as stewards of the Indiana Memorial Union.

Eugene D. Fletchall

Aug. 19, 1908–Feb. 1, 2006

Beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and loyal friend, Eugene Dalton Fletchall, died Wednesday, Feb. 1, in Bloomington.

Gene was born on Aug. 19, 1908, in Poseyville, Ind.

Gene is preceded in death by his parents, Dalton and Pearl (Robinson) Fletchall; his sisters, Virginia, Emily, and Ruth; and his brother, Robert. Blue, as he is known to his family, is survived by his loving wife of over 70 years, Jane Malcolm Fletchall, of Bloomington; his daughter and son-in-law, Ann Fletchall Morine and her husband, Don Morine, of Pittsburgh; his two granddaughters, Emily Morine and Andrea Morine McHugh, and her husband, Brian, all of Pittsburgh; and his great-grandchildren, Molly McHugh and Matthew McHugh, also of Pittsburgh.

A classic Hoosier through and through, Gene was a humble and gracious man of strong conviction. His service and devotion to family, friends, church, and the Indiana University community serve both as a model and inspiration to many.

During his student days at IU, he was elected president of three organizations: the Union Board, Interfraternity Council, and Phi Gamma Delta. Gene met his wife, Jane, at the university.

Upon receiving his law degree, Gene moved to Chicago, accepting a position with Swift & Co. After a series of promotions, he retired in 1972 as the executive vice president.

Throughout his career, Gene always found time to devote to his family, to community service, and to his beloved alma mater. In 1969, he and his wife, Jane, established the Eugene D. Fletchall Fellowship at the IU law school.

After retiring to Bloomington, Gene began another career as a full-time volunteer serving in the IU Foundation, the Indiana Alumni Association, and the Indiana Memorial Union.

As the development officer for the IMU, he was instrumental in founding the Union Board Scholarship Fund, the John Whittenberger Society Endowment Fund, and the IMU Art Guild. Gene also guided efforts to raise funds for the 75th Anniversary Commemorative Garden. In 2000, he and Robert Porter (UB 1933–34) established the Past Presidents' Endowment Fund for the Indiana Memorial Union and Union Board.

Gene retired from volunteer service in May 2004. In 1969, the Alumni Association awarded Gene the Distinguished Alumni Service Award. The IU law school honored him in 1996 as an Academy of Law Alumni Fellow. He received the Thomas Hart Benton Mural Medallion Award in 1997 from Indiana University and the Distinguished Fiji Award from his fraternity, Phi Gamma Delta, in



Eugene D. Fletchall

A classic Hoosier through and through, Gene was a humble and gracious man of strong conviction.

2003. To honor his seven decades of service to Indiana University, the Indiana Memorial Union Board of Directors voted to rename the Union Board Room the Eugene D. Fletchall Room.

Gene was past president of the Bloomington Hospital Advisory Board and was an original member of the board of Meadowood Retirement Community.

Gene will always be remembered for his integrity, compassion, and generous spirit. His great love of life and university was infectious. He was a member of Bloomington Rotary Club and the First United Methodist Church.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. today at the First United Methodist Church in Bloomington with Rev. Dr. Joe Emerson officiating. Private entombment will follow in Valhalla Mausoleum.

Gene was not a gardener, he was a cultivator of people. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to the Bloomington Hospital Foundation, the First United Methodist Church, the Union Board Scholarship Fund, the IMU Board Past Presidents Fund, or to the charity of one's choice c/o Day Funeral Home, 4150 E. Third St., Bloomington, IN 47401.

Reprinted with permission from the Herald-Times, Feb. 3, 2006.