

OJ Harvey — 1927 - 2011

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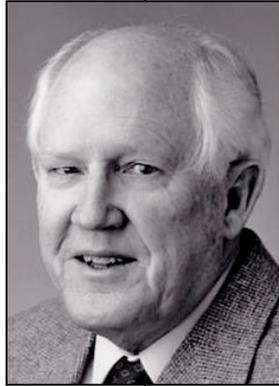
OJ Harvey, Colorado University Professor Emeritus of Psychology, died of a heart attack at his Boulder home on October 31, 2011. He was 84 years old. His wife, Chris, preceded him in death in 2003. OJ retired from CU in 1991. He remained active traveling, reading, and writing. In the 1990s, OJ and Chris founded the OJ and Mary Christine Harvey Educational Foundation, to assist capable students without financial resources to advance their education, especially Native American students. OJ also assisted the Center for History of Psychology at the University of Akron with review of archives.

Born in 1927, he was raised in rural southeastern Oklahoma in near poverty conditions by devoted parents. He described his mother, Nina, as a kind and gentle woman, and his father, Joe, as his best friend and a hardworking share-cropper. OJ often read to them during his formative years. They instilled in him the value of education. His great grand father was part Choctaw and OJ often played with Indian kids. He honored these roots and never forgot them.

Always a patriot, he volunteered for the Navy after attending Oklahoma A&M fall semester 1945. Following Navy Journalism School, OJ served as correspondent on the battleship Wisconsin and in port at New York City. He credited his Navy service as a significant broadening experience.

After the Navy, OJ enrolled at Oklahoma University, where he found two loves: Chris Minton, his wife and loyal companion, and Social Psychology, his lifelong career. As a graduate student at OU, he studied with Musesafer Sherif and played a primary role in planning and conducting The Robbers Cave Experiment, landmark research dealing with the development and resolution of conflict between competing groups.

At Yale (1954-55), he was a post doctoral



research fellow on the Attitude Change Project directed by Carl Hovland. After three years teaching at Vanderbilt University, he moved to CU in 1958, becoming a full professor in 1962. He served on the Department Executive Committee and was Chair of the Social-Personality area. He mentored many graduate students, serving as Chair of 39 doctoral dissertations and on committees for 19 others. Selected as a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study, he spent one year in Palo Alto, CA. He received a National Institute of Mental Health Career Development Award. His most prized achievement was receiving the CU Teacher of the Year Award in 1989.

OJ and Chris fell in love with Colorado scenery, climate, and opportunities for fishing and hunting which they enjoyed with a wide variety of friends, both before and after their retirements. They loved their home east of Boulder with its panoramic view of the mountains. It was a frequent site of celebrations for students' accomplishments. OJ and Chris were a limitless source of encouragement and support for many students and friends.

The Harvey Educational Foundation will continue under the leadership of Terry Minton, Chris and OJ's nephew. To date, about 50 college scholarships have been granted, with a majority going to students at SE Oklahoma State University. Shortly before his death, OJ had been recognized as benefactor of the year by SEOSU. Contributions can be made by check to OJ and Mary Christine Harvey Educational Foundation and mailed to their house c/o Terry Minton: 435 S. 68th Street, Boulder CO 80303. A Memorial/Celebration of Life is planned for Saturday, June 9, 2-5pm at the house, with a sharing of memories starting at 3:00. To aide planning, please indicate the number in your party in an email to cfelknor@qwest.net by May 12, 2012.