



Stephen A. Romine (1912-2009)

Stephen Romine, who, in 1959 became the first dean of the newly named School of Education at CU-Boulder, passed away in Seattle July 28 at age 96. Instrumental in developing the School of Education, Romine was its dean for many years. An influential and widely known expert, he served on numerous national education committees and consulted for the U.S. government in Europe and the Far East.

A former high school teacher, principal, and superintendent of schools in Oklahoma and Colorado, Romine earned his MEd in 1940 and his PhD in education in 1947 at CU-Boulder where he joined the CU faculty. He retired in 1976 after 29 years as a professor and administrator. In recognition of his service, he received the prestigious Robert L. Stearns award.

He authored more than 100 articles and two books, *Building the High School Curriculum and Accreditation and the New Accountability in Higher Education*, and contributed to Calvin Grieder's *American Public Education*.

Dean Romine is well remembered and respected by the many former students with whom he worked. One elementary school teacher recalled that "despite his position as dean, Dr. Romine made us undergrads feel welcome to talk with him about our preparation as future teachers." One of his former doctoral candidates wrote: "He was such an amazing guy! As my advisor for my PhD (1974) he kept me on track and on task. I was very privileged to have him as a mentor and advocate...he was a wonderful role model for all of us in our program."

A perceptive niece added to the accolades: "One could not help but be impressed with his many accomplishments, achieved with great modesty and a spirit of compassion and understanding of human nature. The honors he received during his lifetime were not sought; they came about as a natural result of the respect and admiration of his colleagues."

CU Education Professor Phil Langer, who overlapped Romine's tenure by one year, said that Romine was a "fitness bug" and that "everybody talked about his commitment to physical well being." At age 93, Steve Romine participated in a family team event, running the final leg of the competition. As his three children recalled, "this effort reflected the commitment, drive for excellence, and the achievement of so many of his endeavors—professional, creative, and athletic – throughout his life."