



Dr. Glen Irving Earthman

August 13, 1927 - March 26, 2023

Dr. Glen Irving Earthman, Associate Professor Emeritus in Educational Leadership at Virginia Tech passed away peacefully at his home in Blacksburg, Virginia on March 26th, 2023.

He was born on August 13, 1927, in Denver, Colorado to the late Clyde and Christina Earthman. He was preceded in death by his three sisters, Arlene Fletcher, Lucille Lehrer, LaVerne Turner, and daughter Barbara Sieloff all who lived in Denver, Colorado.

He attended South Denver High School graduating in 1945. He immediately joined the Merchant Marine and subsequently the US Naval Reserve.

Following the war, he attended The University of Denver receiving his B.A. in history/English and M.A. degree in English/Education. He was awarded his EdD degree in Educational Administration from The University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colorado on August 20, 1964.

Glen loved life and his family very much and worked his entire life in a profession he enjoyed and admired. He started teaching in 1950 and never quit the profession for over 70 years. He spent 46 years at Virginia Tech teaching Educational Leadership and Planning and advising doctoral students. He also compiled an impressive record of research in the area of the relationship between school building condition and student and teacher attitudes and performance. He was recognized both nationally and internationally for his expertise in the area, being cited in national and international journals and professional outlets. He made many presentations

of his work both nationally and internationally. He made a presentation to the European Development Bank about the influence the condition of a school building has upon student achievement in developing countries. He was awarded the Researcher of the Year in 2015 by the Virginia Educational Research Association for outstanding research efforts in Virginia. Glen's research is listed in several Internet sources and is accessed by a large number of students and professors worldwide each month. His work with doctoral students was diligent and productive in that he chaired over 80 doctoral dissertations in his tenure. His students certainly did not appreciate his red pencil feed-back during their research, but after he hooded them at commencement, they were much appreciative and thought he was great. He was involved in legal suites in several states concerning fiscal equity of state funding of school facilities and served as an expert witness testifying on behalf of the plaintiffs. He presented his research in the famous Williams vs California landmark case of funding equity. He also was involved in legal suites in Texas, South Carolina, and Alaska. He also served as a manuscript reviewer for several peer reviewed educational journals. In 1997-98 he served as the first Director of the National Clearinghouse on Educational Facilities for school facility planning. In that role he was responsible for establishing the organization and for the accumulation of valuable research on facility planning.

Prior to his stay at Virginia Tech, Glen served as the Executive Director for School Planning in the Philadelphia Public Schools for almost a decade. The department for which he was administratively responsible for planning and constructing four large high schools, eight middle schools and fifteen elementary schools in the city. Glen also served as an Assistant Professor at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks before moving to Philadelphia. He also served as a teacher and elementary school principal in Denver before he received his terminal degree at The University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

Glen maintained membership in both the Council of Educational Facility

Planners, International and The International Society for Educational Planning. He served on the Governing Board of both organizations for numerous years. He also served as President of the International Society for Educational Planning.

Glen had a perpetual admiration and love of good music and was an accomplished pianist and organist. He substituted for organists in several churches in the Blacksburg area.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Julie Gilbertson Earthman to whom he owes so much for his health and happiness; his beloved children, Erik Earthman and his wife Carrie Earthman, Andrew Earthman and his wife Victoria Earthman, Catherine Reinhardt, Douglas Mackall, and Suni Mackall who were the delight of his existence. He is also survived by his wonderful grandchildren; Sorrell Perka, Mimi Perka, Gunder Perka, Bronwyn Earthman, and Gillian Earthman, all of whom were a very special and enduring part of his life. In addition, he has surviving nieces and nephews, Joan Mackey, Sandra Woetz, and Paul Fletcher all of whom live in Denver

Glen and Julie loved to travel and visited many exotic places such as Tibet, China, Taj Mahal, Petra, Jordon, South Africa, Timbuktu, The Grand Bazaar in Istanbul, Machu Picchu, sailed The Amazon River and the Yangtze River, rode camels on the Sahara Desert, visited the Soke in Marrakech, the Salt Mines in Poland, Hungarian castles, and almost every country in Europe and Scandinavia. They spent many Easter Sundays attending services in the Dome in Berlin, Germany. They also spent considerable time in northern England every year for at least 30 years where they rented a cottage in Kirkby Lonsdale for weeks upon end just to spend time together.

Glen was an active member of both Luther Memorial Lutheran Church and Christ Episcopal Church in Blacksburg. During his 50-year membership, he held different church offices.

The funeral service will be held at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 600 Prices Fork Road in Blacksburg at 12 noon, Thursday, March 30th, 2023, with

The Reverends Monica Weber and Scott West officiating. A reception greeting family and friends will be held in the fellowship hall immediately following the service. In lieu of Flowers, contributions may be made to Luther Memorial Lutheran Church Memorial Fund.

Cemetery Details

Westview Cemetery

723 E. Roanoke Street
Blacksburg, VA

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAR 30. 12:00 PM (ET)

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
600 Price's Fork Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Tribute Wall

CM

“*Dr. Earthman was a great friend of the educational leadership program in the School of education and those of us who are faculty in it, and our big family of students and alumni. He would continue to join student committees when he was retired and offer practical wisdom. He enjoyed being in the academic culture and around students and ideas. His generosity will always be remembered and appreciated. He was a rare soul. Carol Mullen*

Carol Mullen - April 08, 2023 at 09:29 AM

SB

“*Just seeing of Dr. Earthman's passing. I worked with him for several years and he was a great professor. Prayers to his family and friends. He will be missed.*



Sheila Blankenship - April 03, 2023 at 09:13 AM

TW

“*My sincere condolences to Mrs. Earthman and the family. I will forever be appreciative of Dr. Earthman for his patience and support throughout my academic journey. He pushed me to dig deeper within myself to realize my true potential. We formed a friendship that lasted years after my defense. I will miss our phone conversations, however, I will never forget his influence on me as a person and student. I am lost for words, rest in paradise my friend, until we meet again.*

Thomas Whitley - April 03, 2023 at 09:12 AM

CR

“ Sincere condolences to the Earthman family on Glen's passing. We were colleagues in the School of Education and I respected his dedication to students and colleagues.

Claire Robbins - April 02, 2023 at 06:51 PM

PF

“ My Uncle and "big brother"
Glen and I were fortunate enough to grow up in our "country colony." Three houses located in what was at that time the country East of Denver. My family, Great Uncle, And Grand Parents/ Aunts and Uncle Glen occupied those three houses. We were surrounded by fields, a few dairy farms, irrigation ditches and large trees. What a place for us to grow up!
Glen and I were the only two young males in the families. We were a definite minority.
Glen being older, taught me things he learned and enjoyed. He seemed to me to be the fountain of knowledge. One thing he tried to teach me and failed was to play chess. Or at least to the point of EVER beating him. We did many projects together and really enjoyed putting firework displays together for the families on the fourth.
We were very proud of Glen when he "went off to college" but I certainly missed him as we both had to take different paths to fulfill our dreams and goals.
Miss you Brother Uncle, see you when it's time

Paul R Fletcher - March 30, 2023 at 04:02 PM

DY

“Glen was my great uncle and a truly wonderful man.

I will always remember him fondly. He had a sweet and gentle way about him. From a young age I knew how much my mother admired his intelligence. Glen, among others, inspired my desire for higher education. Despite his sophistication he still appreciated the zany antics usually initiated by my mother, Sandi and her cousin Karin and very often, Glen's youngest sister, LaVern. The Earthman laugh was contagious, shared by Glen and his sisters and their mother. I remember as a child walking into my great grandmother's kitchen, where they were all sharing stories and laughing. It didn't matter that I didn't know what they were laughing about. I just knew it was a happy place to be, filled with love. I looked forward to Glen's visits to Denver and especially when Erik and Andy would come. It was always fun to hang out with our cousins. Later in life I appreciated the love and support he gave to our family, and the happiness his visits brought to my grandmother.

He touched many lives and will be greatly missed.

Dallis Yoder

Dallis Yoder - March 30, 2023 at 12:58 PM

RP

“Glen was always a soft spoken, wise, and gentle person. I first met him when I was in college with his son Erik. We would descend upon his home in Blacksburg and were always received with a gracious welcome. Over time I got to know Andy and my sister got to know Erik as the bonds between families grow and evolve. I am proud that my sister chose Erik as her lifemate and that the love they show one another, their children, and broader family is as much a magnification of Glenns love for others as it is a reflection of Glenn's guidance and sharing of perspective that enriched those around him. I send my love and best wishes to all the family and friends that feel his loss. Especially those closest to him-Julie, Erik, my sister Carrie, her girls Bronwyn and Gillian, Andy, his wife and others touched by his life.

Richard Penland - March 30, 2023 at 06:32 AM

SW

“Glen was my uncle, and a wonderful man.

When I was young, I was always in awe of him, he was so particular in everything he did. From his cars to his clothes, he was the epitome of suave.

The best memories I have of him is his laugh. He would tip his head back and just laugh out loud. He could find humor in everything.

He was respected and led a full life. The people he touched will remember him always.

Sandi Woelz

Sandi Woelz - March 29, 2023 at 02:47 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Glen Irving Earthman.



March 28, 2023 at 09:07 PM



“ To Julie, Erik, Andrew, Catherine, Douglas, Suni, Sorrell, Mimi, Gunder, Bronwyn, Gillian, and family - I just want to say how sorry I am for your loss. But how blessed you were to have such a wonderful (husband, father, grandfather) in your life.

Glen was such an inspiration to his students, his cohorts, educators, and people in general. His attention to detail, his engaged listening style, his MEMORY for everything made him someone that EVERYONE wanted to be associated with.

I had the privilege of being one of his students at Virginia Tech, as well as my father when he attended the University of North Dakota.

Glen will always be alive as long as we keep him in our memory. I hope that you will keep his memory close to your heart as long as you live.. I know that I will.

-Scott Worner-

Scott Worner - March 28, 2023 at 09:07 AM

TC

Glen and I met first time over 30 years ago in a professional conference. Ever since then, he and I have built our friendship through mutual respect and admiration. Glen was and will always be my professional model. He cared and loved those who worked with him. I feel so painful in my heart when I hear the news of his passing away. He will always be remembered. My sincerest condolences to Julie and the family.

TC Chan

Tak Cheung Chan - April 11, 2023 at 03:47 PM