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In Memoriam: RIP Barry Lane Locke

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RIP

Barry Lane Locke

1943 – 2018

Barry Locke died on Thursday March 1, 2018, leaving all of us the poorer for his absence. Barry was a scholar, a family man, a tireless advocate for rural social work and a pioneering social work educator in the area of rural social work. He was also a warm, caring and witty human being with a remarkable sense of humor and an ability to choose just the right note to sway his audience.

Barry graduated with a BS degree from Fairmont State College (University), a graduate degree from Virginia Commonwealth University, and a Doctorate from West Virginia University. Barry served the West Virginia University School of Social Work for 37 years. During this time he served the school as BSW program chair, assistant chair, Interim Dean, and chair and director of the program. Among his many achievements, he has been president of the National Rural Social Work Caucus, which presented him with its lifetime achievement award, president of the West Virginia Chapter of NASW; and a ranking member of the West Virginia Human Resources Association, Family Service Association of Harrison and Marion Counties (WV), In Touch and Concerned, an adult protection program in the region. He received a certificate of sincere appreciation from the West Virginia University Extension Service Visiting Committee and was named a Distinguished West Virginian by Gov. Joseph Manchin.

Barry's life was a life well lived. He touched all of us in the National Rural Social Work Caucus in many ways: he mentored, he appreciated, he promoted the work of others, he embodied the concept of Servant Leadership. He touched many in West Virginia through his publications on Welfare reform and his tireless advocacy for those who were vulnerable and in need. On the national stage, he was a highly respected social work educator and championed the need for teaching about rural social work. He, along with Jim Winship and Rebecca Garrison, wrote a highly regarded social work text relevant to rural practice, which distinguished it from most of the social work education materials then available.

In the inaugural issue of *Contemporary Rural Social Work* in Spring 2009, [volume 1] the address given by Barry Locke at the annual meeting of the group in 2008 in Bowling Green Kentucky can be found. This piece gives a brief history of the Rural Caucus and its contributions to the Social Work profession from the perspective of an early organizer and a longtime member of the Caucus who was present at the inception of the Caucus at the Institute at the University of Tennessee Knoxville in 1976.

The issues raised and advocated for by Barry are still issues of immediacy. Part of his legacy to the National Rural Social Work Caucus is the honor of carrying on his work. Let us not disappoint him.

There were giants in the land, and now they are one fewer. Rest in Peace, Gentle Giant!

--peg munke