

# MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR

## Emeritus Professor James B. MacDonald

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Emeritus Professor James B. MacDonald, a distinguished and powerful advocate of environmental protection for two decades, died on Nov. 9, 1995 at the age of 76.

During a career that spanned 35 years at the Law School, Professor MacDonald conceived and built the present environmental law curriculum. He inspired and helped create the office of the Wisconsin Public Intervenor and achieved a national reputation as an outstanding environmental scholar and advocate.

He served as chairman of the Environmental Law Committee of the State Bar of Wisconsin, and was a member of the advisory committee to the Wisconsin Public Intervenor. Professor MacDonald served as a faculty member of the University's Institute for Environmental Studies and was chairman of the Leonardo Seminar, an interdisciplinary study of natural resources policy. He also served on two different expert committees of the National Academy of Sciences and lectured on environmental law at universities in Japan, Malaysia and the Philippines. In 1991, he won the University's Wisconsin Idea award for his work in natural resources policy.

It was Professor MacDonald's extraordinary personal qualities that his colleagues and students most deeply treasured. He possessed a rare combination of thoughtful, well-conceived convictions and the courage and ability to act upon them. He was able to formulate far-reaching plans and then work tenaciously for their adoption until he succeeded. Yet, despite his singular sense of purpose and

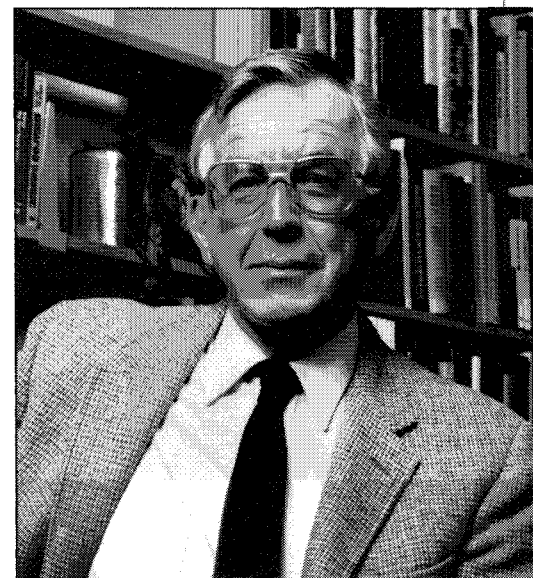
the adversity he often faced in achieving his goals, he remained a gentle man of extraordinary charm and good humor, widely sought for his companionship.

To endow his teaching with practical impact, he organized a series of summer seminars on water law in the Western United States. He took carloads of Wisconsin law students to Colorado, Montana and Wyoming, where students lived in tents, toured streams, rivers and mines. They listened to lectures, often over campfires, on water law from local experts and U.S. government field staff. His students were able to see law in action, and to witness its practical effect on the American environment.

Professor MacDonald was born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin, where he took an undergraduate degree in economics from the University in 1941. During World War II, he served as an infantryman in the bloody Battle of Monte Cassino. He was awarded the Bronze Star for heroism in action. He returned to the UW to earn a law degree in 1947. He joined the law faculty in 1954, after first practicing law in Madison with his father.

His early work was in probate law, which included research for the national Uniform Probate Code and the drafting of statutes that became the probate law of Wisconsin. In the late 1960s, his interest turned to the environment. He dedicated the last 20 years of his professional life to environmental protection.

He is survived by his wife Betty, to whom he was married for 51 years, two sons, a daughter, five grandchildren and a legion of students and colleagues to whom he was a friend and an inspiration.



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