

## DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE FOR  
LOUIS E. DEMOLL**

The special committee of the General Faculty to prepare a memorial resolution for Professor Emeritus Louis E. Demoll, School of Social Work, has filed with the secretary of the General Faculty the following report.



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary  
General Faculty and Faculty Council  
The University of Texas at Austin  
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

**IN MEMORIAM  
LOUIS E. DEMOLL**

Louis DeMoll was Professor Emeritus of the School of Social Work. He joined the faculty of the School of Social Work in 1968 at a time when the School was broadening its scope under the leadership of its new Dean, Jack Otis, who had replaced Lora Lee Pederson, the founding Dean, in 1965.

Lou was one of the new faculty who reflected efforts by the School to increase ties with mental health services, particularly community mental health. Like most states, Texas provided mental health services through hospital institutions, and the concept of community services developed slowly. Influenced by Robert Sutherland, the first President of the University's Hogg Foundation, Jack Otis sought a leader in mental health with experience in developing courses, curricula, and placements in mental health settings. Lou was the choice of the faculty and the Dean to lead this new work.

Having been a Deputy Commissioner with the Texas Department of Mental Health, Lou knew state and local programs and facilities well and so assumed a variety of teaching and liaison duties in Texas. He increased ties for the School of Social Work and its graduates with many community agencies, foundations such as Hogg and Moody, national groups in social work concerned with mental health, and federal agencies like the National Institute of Mental Health. He served on many School, University, city, and state committees concerned with mental health.

As a colleague, Lou was invariably cheerful, quick to greet and congratulate colleagues, and would often whistle softly as he walked the building's halls and into classrooms. He was a soft-spoken southern gentleman who loathed to argue or even raise his voice in a meeting. Though he was a veteran of World War II both in Europe and the Pacific, you only heard of those experiences if you knew Lou personally and raised such topics yourself. A practitioner of positive relations, Lou sought to build a congenial and supportive community in his neighborhood, his job, and the School, and with agencies.

Lou encouraged student ambitions: one of his proudest was his encouragement and support of the political candidacy of Elliott Naishtat. Elliott, who was not a native Texan, was dismissed by the political establishment as an easterner inappropriately contending for the Texas House from Austin. As Elliott relates, Lou, campaign treasurer, long spoke of this great campaign and his pride in Elliott's being the first graduate of our School in the Legislature.

Barbara White, a former dean, remembers Lou's dedication to the School of Social Work, his support of students who received the DeMoll Endowed Presidential Scholarship, and his genuine enthusiasm for the School. Always at Lou's side was his wife, Jean, a cancer researcher. They met as students at Duke in 1947 and were dedicated to each other, Austin, and Texas. The School of Social Work had no greater friend and supporter through many years. Lou was totally dependable and vested in the School and its students through his

involvement in its Advisory Council, his meeting with student beneficiaries of his scholarship, and his inspiring them to be competent, committed professionals.

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Michael Lauderdale (Chair), Elliot Naishtat, Clay Shorkey, Barbara White.

Distributed to the Dean of the School of Social Work on July 13, 2017, and posted under "Memorial Resolutions" at <https://wikis.utexas.edu/display/facultycouncil/Wiki+Home>.