The special committee of the General Faculty to prepare a memorial resolution for Lynn F. Anderson, professor emeritus, public affairs, has filed with the secretary of the General Faculty the following report.

Sue Alexander Greninger, Secretary
The General Faculty

IN MEMORIAM
LYNN F. ANDERSON

For over fifty years at The University of Texas, Lynn Anderson’s governmental finance knowledge and teaching informed and inspired hundreds of students and local and state officials. On September 3, 2011, at the age of ninety years and one day, Lynn peacefully surrendered life on this Earth at his retirement home, Westminster Manor, in Austin, Texas.

Lynn was born in Galveston, Texas, on September 2, 1921, to Methodist minister, Reverend Eric Julius Anderson, and his wife, Ruth Foster Anderson. As a child, Lynn lived in parsonages in Galveston, Hutto, Decker, and Brady. He entered Brady High School, played in the band, and graduated in the spring of 1937 at the age of sixteen. Lynn also pursued basketball and would have been on the Brady football team if one Earl Rudder had prevailed. Rudder, the future World War II hero and Texas A&M University president, was a Brady High School teacher and football coach, his tenure there coinciding with Lynn’s attendance at the school. Rudder begged Lynn’s parents to let him play football, but his mother, particularly, was afraid he would get hurt and refused to sign the permission slip needed by Rudder.

Lynn entered The University of Texas in the fall of 1937, majoring in government. He played in the trumpet section of the Longhorn band and was named “Outstanding Band Member” in his senior year. After receiving his B.A. degree in 1941, Lynn continued his education at UT Austin. While in graduate school, he signed up for the Naval Reserves, which allowed him to continue his education and receive his master’s degree in the spring of 1942. His master’s thesis was very appropriate for the time: “Wartime Financial Administration in the City of Austin.”

Upon graduation, Lynn was immediately called to duty and reported to the Great Lakes Training Center near Chicago. Before 1942 was over, he was commissioned an ensign in the U.S. Navy and started duty on the U.S.S. Tryon in the South Pacific. Sent back to the United States for additional training in 1944, he secured a leave from the Navy, so he could come home to marry his college sweetheart, a pretty nursing student from Brenham named Lillian Schlottmann.

Realizing Lynn’s talent and capabilities, the Navy sent him (with Lillian) to San Diego in early 1945, where he participated in the logistical planning for the invasion of Japan. At war’s end in September 1945, Lynn was not yet eligible to be discharged from the Navy and was sent for his final assignment to Rice Institute (University) to teach Rice students enrolled in ROTC. In the summer of 1946, Lynn was mustered out, and he and Lillian came back to Austin for Lynn to begin work as a research assistant in The University of Texas’ Bureau of Municipal Research. The bureau was founded in 1913, temporarily dissolved in 1925, only to arise again in 1934, as Texas officials petitioned the University to again conduct research and training for city officials. At the bureau, Lynn authored numerous bulletins and monographs addressing current Texas state and local government problems. He was promoted to assistant director of the bureau, a title that carried over when the bureau became the Institute of Public Affairs in 1950.
In post-war Texas, city officials were scrambling to meet the needs of an ever-growing population and realized their need for additional training. At the request of the League of Texas Municipalities (now Texas Municipal League), the institute expanded its scope, and Lynn continued not only to research and write about problems but also to lead efforts to intensify the institute’s training activities. Although the Bureau of Municipal Research had earlier conducted some training of local officials, the new institute then launched the first-ever training institute for mayors and city council members.

Lynn’s interests were congruent with those of the institute in that both were seeking to not only provide help to city officials but also to county and state elected and appointed officials. All of this activity was formalized in 1970 with the establishment of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. Within that structure, an Office of Conferences and Training was created with Lynn appointed as head. Dr. Bill Livingston was a member of the planning committee named to bring President Johnson’s dream to fruition. The president wanted not only his presidential library in Austin, but he also wanted a graduate school of public affairs, established so Texas graduates would not have to go to eastern schools to prepare themselves for career governmental service. Livingston remembers: “I didn’t know exactly what faculty we needed, but I knew that Lynn Anderson was the key one we wanted in public finance.” Thus, Lynn was one of the original faculty members of the school, with responsibility for teaching courses in public financial management and also directing the Office of Conferences and Training.

Lynn continued to expand the scope and breadth of the school’s training activities; in 1972, he initiated the biennial pre-session legislative conference as an orientation program for new legislators and an educational forum for all members to discuss significant problems facing the state government of Texas. When Lynn decided to begin modified service at the University, he turned over the reins of the Office of Conferences and Training to his colleague, Barry Bales, in 1987.

Lynn was the author or co-author of more than seventy publications, and he served as the editor of the periodical, Public Affairs Comment, for twenty-three years. In addition to his teaching and training activities, Lynn was appointed to a number of prestigious commissions and organizations. Perhaps the most noteworthy would be his being named by the National Council on Governmental Accounting as one of two academic members to a twenty-person committee charged with revising standards of governmental accounting and financial management for state and local governments; he served a four-year term from 1974 to 1978 in this position. His other major appointments included memberships on the following: the commission that produced the draft of a new Texas Constitution in 1974, the State Executive Committee of the University Interscholastic League for twenty-six years, and the State Bar of Texas’ Board of Directors as one of two public members appointed by the Supreme Court from 1981 to 1984.

Professor Anderson was a lead author of the 1968 edition of Governmental Accounting, Auditing and Financial Reporting (GAAFR). This volume, published by the National Committee on Governmental Accounting, established what at the time were the generally accepted accounting and reporting standards for state and local governments. Although the standards had to be approved by the committee, Lynn Anderson (along with Professor Frank D. Graydon of UT Austin’s business school) conducted the underlying research, prepared original and revised drafts for the committee’s reviews, and served as key advisors to the committee. This book has been revised several times since 1968, but it still stands as the foundation of modern municipal accounting.

This landmark work, in addition to the body of work he had already accumulated, was instrumental in his receiving a number of professional awards. The list began with the 1976 Award for Outstanding Accomplishment in Public Administration by the Austin Society for Public Administration, which was followed by two prestigious national awards: the Award for Excellence in Career Development in Municipal Finance from the Municipal Officers Association of the United States and Canada in 1982 and the Stephen B. Sweeney Academic Award from the International City/County Management Association in 1987.

Lynn still found time to be active in civic and community affairs in Austin for more than four decades. He was a charter member and past president of the Kiwanis Club of the University area. He was also an active layman in the United Methodist Church, where he and Lillian worshipped. He held many positions of leadership, including the chairmanship of both the Administrative Board and the Finance Committee.
Professor Anderson’s death brought forth accolades for his contributions from a number of his colleagues and former students. Perhaps none of these is more meaningful than the remembrance by his associate, Dr. Michael H. Granof, the Ernst and Young Distinguished Centennial Professor in Accounting and Distinguished Teaching Professor of Business and Public Affairs. Professor Granof, who took over several of the courses Lynn had taught at the LBJ School, honored Lynn with the following words:

To anyone familiar with state and local government accounting, Lynn Anderson will be remembered as one of the giants of our profession. Through his writings, service in professional associations, and his teaching, he played a major role in developing accounting standards and improving practice. Over a period of several decades, he taught hundreds of municipal finance officers in his various workshops, and there were relatively few in Texas who did not pass through at least one of his courses or lectures. I personally owe Lynn a special debt of gratitude. He was a source of inspiration and guidance in both my academic and professional endeavors. He was always available to serve as a sounding board for any ideas I might have. It was through my association with Lynn that I owe my position at the LBJ School. When Lynn retired and I took over some of the courses that he had taught, it was his standards of excellence to which I aspired.

City and state officials recalled how his short courses in accounting, auditing, and tax assessing enabled them to efficiently and professionally perform their duties. Other former students recounted how he inspired them to pursue careers in public finance. One such student, Billy Hamilton, former deputy comptroller for the State of Texas, paid tribute to Lynn as follows:

Lynn’s advice had no agenda and no party. It was the solid, practical advice that should be the bedrock of public service. I doubt if anyone can appreciate how many public servants in Texas and beyond have been touched by what Lynn taught and more importantly, by the way he conducted himself as a man and as a teacher.

When Professor Anderson retired in 1997, colleagues and former students honored him by initiating a fund for the Lynn F. Anderson Professorship in Public Financial Management at the LBJ School. The fund continues to accept contributions and is one of three places designated for memorial gifts in his memory.

Anderson is survived by his wife, Lillian. The couple celebrated its sixty-seventh wedding anniversary in August. He is also survived by two sons, four grandchildren, and one great grandson. Son Allan and wife, Kay, live in Salado, where he is a physician with Scott and White in Temple. Their children are Ashley Shead of Charlottesville, Virginia, and Scott Anderson of Dallas. Ashley bore one of Lynn’s great grandsons, Sebastian Shead of Charlottesville. Son Gary and wife, Kim, live in Austin, where he is now retired after having served as executive director of the Texas Municipal Retirement System. Their children are daughter, Erin Terry, who lives in Irving with her husband, Steve, and Grant Anderson of Brooklyn, New York. Lynn is also survived by three sisters, Lorisse Maxwell, of LaVerne, California; Lucille Rutherford of Pleasanton, Texas; and Lulu Mae Dearing of Austin, along with a number of nieces, nephews, and extended family members. Lynn was predeceased by his parents, his brother, Louis, and his sister, Lillie Ruth.

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Terrell Blodgett (chair), Michael H. Granof, and Barry V. Bales.
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