

DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE FOR
JOSEPH H. MATLUCK**

The special committee of the General Faculty to prepare a memorial resolution for Professor Emeritus Billy Joseph H Matluck, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, 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
JOSEPH H. MATLUCK**

Professor Joseph H. Matluck was born on November 25, 1917, in Brooklyn, New York. He served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force during World War II, and then with support of the GI Bill, he studied Italian, Spanish and Linguistics, earning a master's degree at Mexico City College (1949) and a Ph.D. at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México - UNAM (1951). Professor Matluck began his career as an Instructor of Romance Languages at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and then transferred to The University of Texas at Austin in 1955. He retired from full-time teaching in 1987, but continued to teach part-time until 1997, a career that covered more than forty-six years. He also enjoyed numerous appointments as a visiting Professor, including several appointments at the National University of Mexico and the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington, D.C.

Professor Matluck left a legacy for UT Austin and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Together with his colleague Carlos Solé, Matluck began the graduate program in Romance Linguistics and Philology. The graduate program in Romance Linguistics and Philology has produced a string of distinguished students who continue to enjoy prominent academic careers. Among them, Terrell A. Morgan, James F. Lee, and Bill VanPatten edited a volume by other former students in honor of Matluck, 1987 *Language and Language Use: Studies in Spanish: Dedicated to Joseph H. Matluck*. On August 22, 1988, at the Seventieth Annual Meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) in Denver, Colorado, he was recognized with the *Homenaje a Joseph Matluck* Hispanic Linguistics Session honoring Joseph H. Matluck.

Matluck's teaching and research were a fusion of intellectual curiosity and meticulous attention to detail. At the same time, he exhibited an engaging and personal style, always respectful of people's feelings and opinions. He was widely characterized as a true gentleman, generous with his time, and extraordinarily kind. His book *La pronunciación en el español del Valle de México* (1951) served as the foundation for phonological research on the Spanish of Mexico for nearly half a century. His work, in collaboration with J. Lope Blanch on the *Proyecto de la Norma Culta* (1972-1973), set the standard for linguistics field methodology for all of Latin America. After retirement, Matluck, together again with Solé, edited the proceedings of 1999 *Actas del Simposio Internacional de la lengua española: Pasado, presente, y futuro*. This volume represents, in many ways, the culmination of his nearly fifty years of contributions to the field of Romance Linguistics.

Throughout his career, Professor Matluck was a recipient of numerous grants and scholarships, including Baird Scholarship (1963), Fulbright (1963-1964), National Foundation for the Humanities (1969-1970), and Educational Development Program Grants – IBM Corporation (1984-1985). Matluck also served on the Board of Trustees of the Capitol Broadcasting Company, which dictates policies of KMFA-FM, Austin's educational and non-commercial classical music station.

16584

Professor Matluck died on June 14, 2016, in Austin, Texas at the age of ninety-eight.

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Orlando R. Kelm (Chair) and Dale A. Koike.

Distributed to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts on June 18, 2018, and posted under “Memorial Resolutions” at <https://wikis.utexas.edu/display/facultycouncil/Wiki+Home>.