

# Marvin D. Glock

*November 19, 1912 — September 15, 2000*

Professor Glock was born on a farm near San Jose, Illinois, on November 19, 1912. He was farm-trained early in discipline and hard work. The decisiveness and independence he developed during those early years were sources of strength throughout his life. His school days began in the elementary grades in San Jose, where he lived with his grandmother and aunt. Unlike most other country children, who attended one-room country schools, his parents opted for the town school where there was a teacher for each of two grades rather than one teacher for all eight grades.

He graduated from the high school in San Jose where he was president of his class and valedictorian. After high school, he attended Blackburn College in Carlinville, Illinois. All students worked two and one-half hours every day, doing custodial work, caring for the milk cows, preparing and serving food, and so on. Tuition was lowered with this work input.

After graduating from this two-year school, he was slated to teach at a one-room country school near his home, but he declined this opportunity when he received an invitation from an aunt and uncle to live with them and attend the University of Nebraska. There, he completed all course work for entrance to medical school, and majored in Mathematics. Scholarships for medical schools were unavailable at that time. Lacking financial help, he accepted a position as science/math teacher and athletic coach at the Edison, Nebraska High School.

After two years, he was offered the position of science teacher in the high school at Mason City, Illinois. This school was only a short distance from his hometown of San Jose. It was also near the University of Illinois, where he earned his Master's degree by attending classes on Saturdays. After two more years, he was employed as the Principal of the Mason City High School. Another vacancy occurred on his staff, and his future wife applied. Upon his recommendation, she was hired. Two years later, they were married.

World War II was in progress and he volunteered for the U.S. Navy. After serving two years overseas in the South Pacific as a communication officer, he was assigned to the University of Iowa to teach English to Dutch cadets. When he was discharged from the Navy, he remained at the University to earn his Ph.D. degree in Educational Psychology. His next employment was as Assistant Professor at Michigan State University. He remained there for two years and then accepted a position as full Professor of Educational Psychology at Cornell University and

Director of the University Testing and Service Bureau. He had over one thousand students on his class rolls for a number of years, with the help of only one part-time graduate assistant.

At that time, veterans of the war were enrolling in large numbers, and they were having serious difficulty in reading and studying assignments. They requested a reading improvement program. Again, under the leadership of Professor Glock, a program was established. In a preliminary meeting, one thousand students signed up for the course.

Students registered for his courses in great numbers, even though they weren't necessarily training to be teachers. His sparkle and fresh approach captivated them. They recognized that his teaching materials reflected the ideas of an original mind. His civility, generosity of spirit, work ethics, and moral values were hallmarks of his character. He was a gentleman of impeccable taste and sense of propriety and had an infectious humor as well as rare insight into the problems of college youth. He conveyed to them his overall objective, to help them become the best they could be. Students of his last regular class in the Spring of 1983 presented him with a plaque engraved with this message, "For continued devotion to your students at Cornell. The Last Class at Cornell, 1983."

In addition to his professorial duties at Cornell, he held visiting professorships at both the University of Chicago and the State Teachers College at Cedar Falls, Iowa. He was also active in consulting and facilitating workshops in schools, professional organizations, and business groups around the country. He spent one year on a Fulbright Fellowship in Sri Lanka.

Professor Glock published a number of books, papers, and programs in measurement, evaluation, psychology and developmental reading. One very important contribution of his research, supported by the U.S. Navy, was how best to optimize the use of pictures and text for giving directions to accomplish a task.

Professor Glock belonged to the following professional organizations: Fellow, American Psychological Association; American Educational Research Association; National Society for the Study of Education; Phi Delta Kappa; Phi Kappa Phi; and Sigma Xi. He was certified with a Life State Supervisory Certificate in the State of Illinois, and as a Psychologist in New York State. He was elected to: Who's Who in America; Who's Who in the East; Who's Who in Medicine and Health Care and Behavioral Sciences; and the Writer's Directory.

Professor Glock retired in 1983 as Professor Emeritus. However, he continued to conduct workshops and seminars at Cornell and around the nation until January of 2000. His motivation resulted from the feedback of his students.

In an advertising brochure for Cornell Adult University, a course description was the following: "Getting the Job Done", led by Educational Psychologist, Marvin D. Glock. The course received uniformly enthusiastic reviews: "the best of the six courses I've taken at CAU. The group was cohesive and fun. I can't begin to tell you how much I learned. Marv Glock was extraordinary." He also contributed to the schools of Ithaca, advising them on many problems relating to teaching and learning. He was active in the First Presbyterian Church, serving as an elder for many years. He was a family man, devoted to his wife of almost 60 years, Ruth Snell Glock; his daughters, Carol Glock Corruccini (Linton) of Davis, California, and Sandra Glock Ritchie (Douglas), of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; and grandchildren, Rebecca Kay and Sara Ruth Corruccini, and Blair Douglas Ritchie. Secretaries in his department will long remember the many rose bouquets, which he shared from his garden at home.

*William E. Drake, Verne N. Rockcastle, Richard E. Ripple*