

Howard G. Andrus

July 17, 1915 — July 21, 1998

Howard G. Andrus was born on July 17, 1915, in Chemung, New York, the son of the Reverend Frank Andrus and Ethlyn Mighells Andrus. During his early years, he moved about the southern tier of New York State where his father served various pastorates. He attended Genesee Wesleyan Prep School in Lima, New York and earned a B.A. degree from Houghton College, Houghton, New York in 1938.

Following five years of teaching social studies at Rushford Central School, he entered the U.S. Army in 1943 where he served as a personnel placement officer in the European Theater. He was decorated with the American Campaign Medal and Ribbon, European, African, and Middle Eastern Medal, and two Bronze Service Stars. He was discharged in 1946 following distinguished service as a counselor to many G.I.s of World War II.

Howard met his future wife, Helen Shindledecker, while both were teaching at Rushford. They were married on November 3, 1945, while he was still in military service. To this union, three children were born: Duane, Richard and Sharon. He was a loving husband and father. His dedication to his wife during her prolonged illness was strongly evident. She (Helen) predeceased him on September 13, 1985.

Howard was the first student to matriculate under the G.I. Bill at Cornell University in 1946. He received his M.S. degree in Counseling in 1947 and immediately joined the staff as a Veterans Counselor. His outstanding service in this capacity led to the establishment of the University Guidance and Testing Center. Under his tutelage, many hundreds of veterans and non-veterans were privy to his outstanding advice on a variety of topics — from career choice to job placement. During this same period of time, 1947-51, he worked part-time on his Doctoral degree, receiving a Ph.D. in Guidance and Personnel Administration in 1951.

Despite all his professional and academic accomplishments, Howard was best known for his friendship and quick wit. He was always positive in his outlook and prone to pull a prank on his colleagues at unexpected times. His favorite saying, “You never get a second chance to make a first impression”, became his hallmark while serving as Director of Teacher Placement. In addition to his friendliness and wit, he had a passion for the New York Yankees and could cite statistics on every player going back to 1920!

Professional responsibilities did not keep Howard from serving his community. As a member and later President of the Ithaca City School District Board of Education, he rendered invaluable counsel during the turbulent 1960s

and 1970s. His ability to bring disparate groups together for the common good was evident throughout his time on the Board. He was also very active on the board of various Library Associations.

Let us continue our discussion about his contributions in teaching. While advancing from Assistant Professor to full Professor, he maintained a strong schedule of graduate courses for students in Counseling, Psychology, and general fields of Education. He was particularly sought out by international students to serve on Master's and Doctoral committees. His keen insight into their concerns and problems in our different culture made for a great mix. He always made time for students whether or not they had an appointment. His theme was, "If they are here and want to see me, send them in." He continued his total load of teaching, advising, and counseling through 1981 when he retired as Professor Emeritus of Education and as founding Director of the University Guidance and Testing Service.

Surviving are a son, Duane (Alessandra) Andrus, of Cortland, New York; a son, Richard Andrus, of Ithaca, New York; a daughter, Sharon (Dan) Andrus Trembley, of Freeville, New York; and two step granddaughters.

Marvin D. Glock, Verne Rockcastle, Joe P. Bail