

## Dr. James S. Roberts

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Dr. James S. Roberts, a University of Nevada Political Science professor, and long-time Carson City resident passed away Wednesday, November 3, 2010 of complications following a heart attack.

Roberts was born in Detroit, Michigan on September 17, 1924 to Jean and Ruth Stenius Roberts. His youth was spent in Detroit, with summers spent on his much-beloved Bois Blanc Island, Michigan. His family moved to Los Angeles in 1935. He attended the University of Redlands before the war and served as a private in the U.S. Army during World War II. He completed his education at Harvard College, obtaining his B.S. in Political Science in 1947, and his PhD from University of North Carolina in 1955. In North Carolina he met his future wife, Annie Hall Estep. The two married in 1949 shortly before beginning a two-year stay in Sweden as part of Jim's graduate study. After returning, he taught in the Political Science departments at University of North Carolina and at the University of Minnesota, before taking a professorship at the University of Nevada in 1956.

During his academic career at UNR, Roberts had a number of opportunities to teach political science and public administration in many foreign countries. He and his family lived in Lahore, Pakistan in 1962-64, while he taught at the

University of the Punjab, and he also spent time teaching in Nigeria, Brazil, and Mexico. Roberts was also a founding faculty member at the Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville, Virginia, at which he continued teaching as a visiting professor for many years. From 1965-67, Roberts took a leave of absence from UNR to serve as Deputy Budget Director for the State of Nevada.

Roberts was a member of the American Society for Public Administration, the American Society for Political Science and UNR's Dial Club.

Roberts retired from UNR in 1986 and turned his energy to a wide range of interests. He was active in the Democratic Party, including the Carson City Democratic Central Committee. He served as a delegate at state conventions and caucuses, and served as chairperson for many political campaigns, culminating in his own run for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994.

Roberts was involved in numerous civic clubs and organizations. His fondest pursuits in retirement involved frequent tennis with the older Carson tennis crowd, which in recent years had evolved to meeting for coffee rather than tennis; his garden; and his family. In 2003 he became a published fiction author with the publication of the "Bois Blanc Island Affair" a novel set on the island where he had spent so many of his childhood summers.

Roberts' fondest vocation was as a folksinger. In the 60's

and 70's Roberts frequently sang folksongs at various gatherings and used the message of the songs as an ambassador in many foreign countries. He was known for his love of, and memory for, thousands of songs ranging from folksongs, to labor songs, to Broadway show tunes to Gilbert & Sullivan.

Roberts and his wife, Anne, lived in the same house in Carson City for 45 years, and relished entertaining friends, family and visitors. Roberts is survived by his wife Anne, his son Eric and wife Lauren Rusk of Palo Alto, CA, son Mark and wife Eileen Roberts of Pittsburgh, PA, daughter Wendy and husband Dan Swanson of Sonoma, CA and grandchildren Ben Linkow, Matthew and Katherine Roberts, Nathaniel, Christopher and Delaney Swanson. He is also survived by his brother Eric Boyd Roberts and sister-in-law Pat Getchell of Ajicjic, Mexico, and sister-in-law Ruth Roberts of Los Angeles, CA, and three nieces and three nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and his brother Charles Donald Roberts.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 13th at the Nevada State Library. A scholarship in Professor Roberts' name is being created at the University of Nevada for political science and public administration students. Donations should be made to the UNR Foundation with a notation "In memory of James S. Roberts," and sent to UNR Foundation, Mailstop 162, Reno, NV 89557.