

GLENN LEGGETT

Grinnell

March 29, 1918-June 2, 2003



Glenn Leggett was born March 29, 1918 in Ashtabula, Ohio. The eldest of five children, his parents were Celinda Sheldon Leggett and Glenn H. Leggett.

Leggett graduated from Ashtabula High School in 1936. He received his A.B. degree from Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont, in 1940, and his M.A. from The Ohio State University in 1941. In 1942-43, he was an instructor in English and History at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology until he entered the U.S. Navy. In 1946, Leggett returned to Ohio State where he received his Ph.D. in 1949. He taught at Ohio State until 1952 when he joined the Department of English at the University of Washington in Seattle. In 1963, he became Provost there, a position he held until 1965, when he left to become President and Professor of English at Grinnell College.

At UW and continuing at Grinnell, Leggett earned a reputation for his writing and his commitment to educational organizations. He is the author and editor of several books for writing and literature courses, including the widely used Prentice-Hall Handbook for Writers, which first appeared in 1951 and is now in its twelfth edition, and Twelve Poets, published in 1958. A selection of papers relating to his tenure at Grinnell College from 1965 to 1975 is entitled Years of Turmoil, Years of Change. A number of his essays on education are included in his Teacher to Teacher, published in 1979.

Over his long and distinguished career, Leggett served as chairman of the National Conference on College Composition and Communication, the College Section of the National Council of the Teachers of English, the Council's Task Force on Career Education, and the College Entrance Examination Board. He served as president of the Iowa Association of Private Colleges and Universities and the Iowa College Foundation, and as chairman of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest. He was a trustee of Marycrest College in Davenport, Iowa, and a curator of Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri. He was a life member of the Modern Language Association. He also served as a director of General Telephone of the Midwest from 1971 to 1975.

A recipient of numerous honors and distinctions, Leggett held an honorary Litt.D. degree from Lawrence University, honorary L.H.D. degrees from Ripon, Rockford, and Grinnell Colleges and the College of Idaho, and honorary LL.D. degrees from Middlebury and Morningside Colleges. In 1979, he was a recipient of the Edward S. Noyes Award for Distinguished Service to the College Board. He was elected to the Ashtabula High School Hall of Fame in 2001.

After leaving Grinnell College in 1975, Leggett became Vice President of Corporate Communications for Deere & Company, Moline, Illinois. He retired from that position in 1979, was named President Emeritus of Grinnell College in the same year and returned to live in Grinnell. He then became active in many civic organizations. A Congregationalist, Leggett was appointed a director of Mayflower Homes, Inc. in 1983, and served as its president from 1986-88. He was also a director of the Mayflower Foundation, serving as its president in 1991-92. He is the author of the Grinnell UCC Congregational Church History. From 1985-91, he was a member of the Board of Trustees of Stewart Public Library in Grinnell, serving as the Board's president in 1987-88. He was a member of the Grinnell Senior Chamber of Commerce, The Fortnightly Club, and the Grinnell Kiwanis Club.

An ardent conservationist, Mr. Leggett was a founding trustee and advisor of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. In 1982-83, he was a member of the State of Iowa's Natural Resources Council. He was also a member of Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, the Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy, the Isaac Walton League, and Pheasants Forever.

In 1941, he married Doris James, who died in 1971. In 1973, he married Russelle Seeburger Jones. Glenn Leggett is survived by his wife Russelle, his four daughters, Leslie Leonard, Susan Jones, Celinda Conrad, and Joanna Sinnwell; his stepson Brian Jones, and stepdaughter Sarah Jones Krumm, as well as five sons-in-law, David Leonard, Michael Jones, Curtis Conrad, Alan Sinnwell, and Timothy Krumm. He is also survived by thirteen grandchildren, eleven great grandchildren, and his sister, Joanne Miner of Pocatello, Idaho.

Leggett was an avid fly fisherman, bird hunter, and book collector. He enjoyed writing personal essays about hunting and fishing, family, mends, his Labradors, travel, and literature. A man of wit, generosity, tenderness, and intelligence, he cherished his family and many friends.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 7th at the United Church of Christ - Congregational, 4th and Broad Street in Grinnell. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Grinnell College and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.

Leggett, president emeritus of Grinnell College, dead at 85

Glenn Leggett, 85, president emeritus of Grinnell College, died Monday, June 2, 2003 at Mayflower Health Care Center.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 7, at 2 p.m. at the United Church of Christ-Congregational, Fourth Avenue and Broad St. Memorials may be made to Grinnell College or the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.

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In 1942-43 he was an instructor in English and history at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology until he entered the United States Navy. In 1946, Leggett returned to Ohio State where he received his doctor of philosophy degree in 1949. He taught at Ohio State until 1952 when he joined the Department of English at the University of Washington in Seattle. In 1963, he became provost there, a position he held until 1965, when he left to become president and professor of English at Grinnell College.

At the University of Washington and continuing at Grinnell, Leggett earned a reputation for his writing and his commitment to educational organizations. He is the author and editor of several books for writing and literature courses, including the widely used "Prentice-Hall Handbook for Writers" which first appeared in 1951 and now is in its 12th edition, and "Twelve Poets," published in 1958. A selection of papers relating to his tenure at Grinnell



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