



Commemoration of Robert S. Eckley

Robert S. Eckley

4-19-2012

Robert S. Eckley Memorial Service

Illinois Wesleyan University

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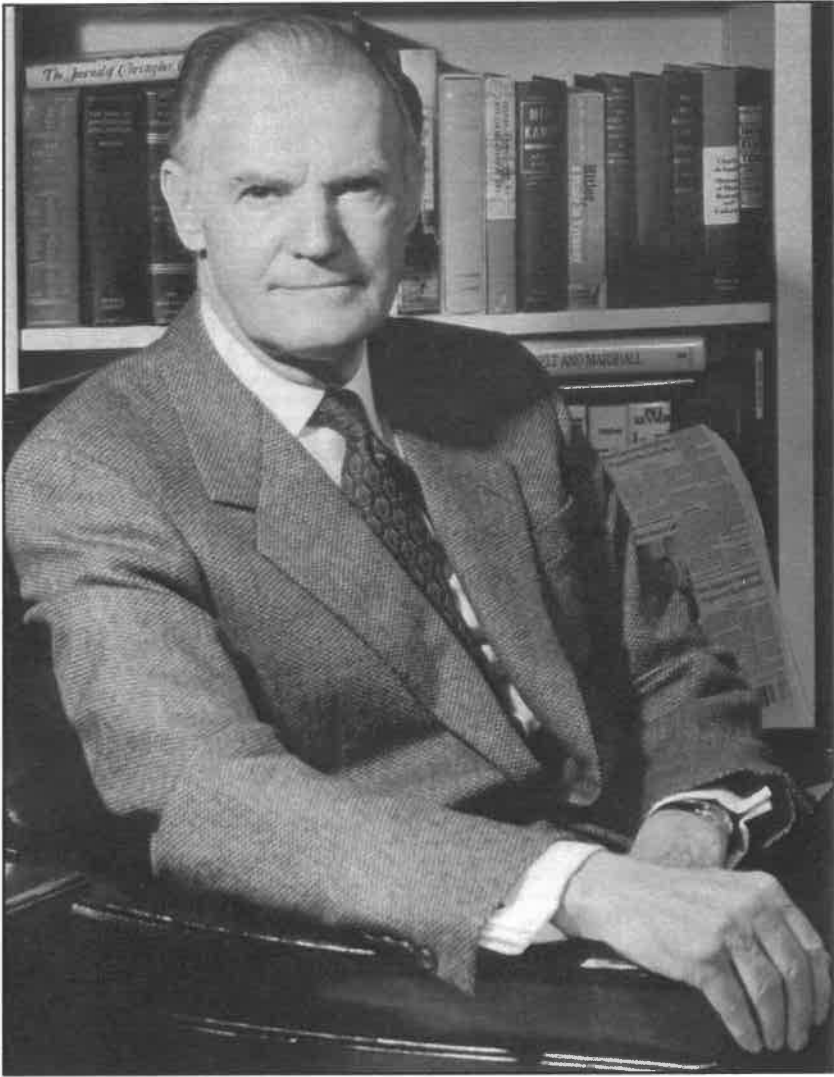
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A UNIVERSITY MEMORIAL SERVICE

Robert S. Eckley



THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2012 AT 11:00 AM
EVELYN CHAPEL

A UNIVERSITY MEMORIAL SERVICE

ROBERT S. ECKLEY

Illinois Wesleyan University — Evelyn Chapel

Thursday, April 19, 2012 at 10:00 AM

GATHERING

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

Elyse Nelson Winger
Chaplain

HYMN

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

LISTENING

ON BEHALF OF THE UNIVERSITY

Richard F. Wilson, President

ON BEHALF OF THE ECKLEY FAMILY

A READING from "East Coker" by T.S. Eliot

William Eckley, Grandson

In my beginning is my end. In succession
Houses rise and fall, crumble, are extended,
Are removed, destroyed, restored, or in their place
Is an open field, or a factory, or a by-pass,
Old stone to new building, old timber to new fires,
Old fires to ashes, and ashes to the earth
Which is already flesh, fur and faeces,
Bone of man and beast, cornstalk and leaf.
Houses live and die: there is a time for building
And a time for living and for generation
And a time for the wind to break the loosened pane
And to shake the wainscot where the field mouse trots
And to shake the tattered arras woven with a silent motto.

Home is where one starts from. As we grow older
The world becomes stranger, the pattern more complicated
Of dead and living. Not the intense moment
Isolated, with no before and after,
But a lifetime burning in every moment
And not the lifetime of one man only
But of old stones that cannot be deciphered.
There is a time for the evening under starlight,
A time for the evening under lamplight
(The evening with the photograph album),
Love is most nearly itself
Where here and now cease to matter.
Old men ought to be explorers
Here and there does not matter
We must be still and still moving
Into another intensity
For a further union, a deeper communion
Through the dark cold and the empty desolation,
The wave cry, the wind cry, the vast waters
Of the petrel and the porpoise. In my end is my beginning.

MUSICAL OFFERING

(?)

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SERMON

Rev. Vaughn Hoffmann

PRAYING

PRAYER

ONE: LET US PRAY.

ALL: Grant us, O Lord,

Steadfast hearts, which no unworthy thought can drag downward;

Unconquered hearts, which no tribulation can wear out;

Upright hearts, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside.

Draw us close to Thee, and grant us

understanding to know you,

diligence to seek you,

wisdom to find you,

and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen *(based on a prayer by St. Thomas Aquinas)*

SENDING

HYMN

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in

rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
 dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
 dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
 calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
 give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

Text: William Whiting, 1825-1878, alt.
 Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

All are welcome for a luncheon and time to greet the family at the Memorial Union.



PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE

Carol Churukian, Organist and Accompanist,
 Illinois Wesleyan University School of Music

William Eckley, Grandson of Robert S. and Nell Eckley

Vaughn Hoffman, Lead Pastor, Wesley United Methodist Church

Elyse Nelson Winger, University Chaplain

Richard F. Wilson, President, Illinois Wesleyan University

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches in the United States of American. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

“Invocation” and “Dismissal with Blessing” adapted from resources in *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, The United Methodist Publishing House, 1992.

Eliot, T.S. *Four Quartets*. Harcourt Press, 1943.

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee.” Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933 Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt. Public domain.

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save.” Text: William Whiting, 1825-1878, alt. Music: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876. Public domain.

Robert S. Eckley

Robert S. Eckley, 90, died at 2:10 a.m. on Sunday, April 15 at his home after a four year battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (commonly known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease).

A memorial service will be held in Evelyn Chapel on Illinois Wesleyan's campus, Thursday, April 19 at 11 a.m. Immediately following the memorial service, the family will be available to visit at the Celebration of Life luncheon in the Young Main Lounge of the Memorial Center.

President Emeritus of Illinois Wesleyan University, Eckley enjoyed a dual career in higher education and business. Born on September 4, 1921, in Kankakee, Illinois, he was the son of George A. and Mary Spence Eckley.

Eckley was elected president of Illinois Wesleyan in 1968 and served 18 years, longer than any other president in the University's history. Chief emphases during his administration were the strengthening of the academic and financial aspects of the University. The proportion of faculty holding doctoral degrees almost doubled during his tenure, and those within the Liberal Arts College rose substantially. The endowment fund was increased to seven times its 1968 value. Campus beautification was fostered, and two awards were made to the University by the Bloomington Citizens Beautification Committee.

The campus size was nearly doubled and the Alice Millar Fine Arts Center, Dodds Hall, Evelyn Chapel, and Fort Natorium were added. Eckley worked closely with architect Ben Weese of Chicago in the design of the chapel, which attracted national attention (*Architecture* magazine, AIA, cover and stories) and became a focal point for the campus.

Curricular change was facilitated by several foundation grants and pointed toward improved integration of liberal and professional learning in business, the health sciences, fine arts, and teaching.

While president and following his retirement, Eckley taught courses in international business and portfolio management over three decades. Following retirement, he was engaged in consulting in both K-12 and higher education.

Before joining Illinois Wesleyan, Eckley served for 14 years at Caterpillar in Peoria, where his responsibilities included economic research, pricing, production scheduling, and product control. Appointed in 1954, he was the first professional economist employed by Caterpillar, where he established the business economics department. He assisted Caterpillar in promoting access to foreign markets and to employment stability. Earlier, he had taught economics at Harvard and the University of Kansas and served as the senior industrial economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. Immediately after retiring from IWU, he spent a year as visiting fellow in economics at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.

During World War II, he was an engineering officer in the U.S. Coast Guard for three years, and served on the Navy vessel, USS Davenport, in the North Atlantic on convoy escort and weather patrol duty.

He also served as a director of State Farm Insurance Companies for 27 years and a board member of Central Illinois Public Service Company (a predecessor of Ameren) for 21 years. He was a board member of the McLean County Bank (now part of Regions Bank), Turbodyne Corporation of Minneapolis, and the Methodist Medical Center of Peoria. Since retirement, he served as a board member and president of the Abraham Lincoln Association in Springfield (2002-04), the David Davis Mansion Foundation (1994-96), and member of the board of the McLean County Historical Society. Earlier he was president of the National Association of Schools and Colleges of the United Methodist Church, first vice-president of the Illinois Council of Churches, president of the Bradley United Christian Foundation, and a member of the Peoria Mayor's Commission on Human Relations.

Recognized as an individual who significantly contributed to the mission of the Abraham Lincoln Association (ALA), Eckley was a recipient of the Logan Hay Medal for his scholarly work and devotion to the ideals of the association. The medal is awarded infrequently and is the highest honor given by the ALA.

Eckley was a graduate of Bradley University, received an MBA degree from the University of Minnesota, and a masters' and PhD in economics from Harvard University. He is the author of five books, including *Global Competition in Capital Goods*, 1991, and *Abraham Lincoln's Forgotten Friend, Leonard Swett*, 2012, and the author of articles published in the *Harvard Business Review*, *The American Economic Review*, *The Brookings Review*, *The Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, and the *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association*. He was a member of the American Economic Association, the American Statistical Association, and the National Association of Business Economists.

As a graduate student at Minnesota, he had the Nobel laureate in economics, George Stigler (1982), as a professor, and while teaching at Kansas, he had another future recipient of the Nobel Prize, Vernon Smith (2002), as a student in American economic history. For his doctoral examination at Harvard, Joseph A. Schumpeter (1883-1950), the famous Austrian-American economist, served as chairman.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Nell Mann Eckley and four children: Paul Nelson (Penelope Diane) Eckley, Normal, Ill., Robert George Eckley (Mary Marta Anderson), St. Louis, Mo., Jane Ann Lennon (David Gartshore), Oakland, Calif., and Rebecca Helen (Kenneth) Melchert, Neenah, Wis. He has five grandchildren: Tessa, Normal, William, St. Louis, Mo. and Adriane, John, and Alex, Neenah, Wis.

He is preceded in death by one older brother, Carson, at the age of 10.

Memorials may be directed to Illinois Wesleyan University or Wesley United Methodist Church.