Stan Berry 1923-2015

Stan Berry, of Pullman, a longtime Eastern Washington educator died on December 18. He was 92. Berry who had been a teacher, a high school principal, a school superintendent, and a college administrator was nationally known for his work in International student recruitment to Washington State University and other American universities.

Stanley Leo Berry was born on April 7, 1923 in Spokane, Washington to John Fay and Muriel Berry. He grew up primarily in Clarkston, Washington, graduating from Clarkston High School in 1941. After high school he briefly attended Lewis-Clark State while working as a reporter for the Lewiston Tribune. When he enrolled in Washington State College in 1942 with plans of becoming a broadcaster he was beginning the institutional relationship that would dominate his professional life. His education was interrupted by WWII and active duty in the Marine Corp from 1943-46.

On April 15, 1945 while still on active duty he married his high school sweetheart, Bernette Thomas, and began the passionate relationship that would dominate his personal life. They made their first home in Oceanside, California where he was stationed.

Stan returned to Pullman and WSC after discharge. He graduated in 1948 with a degree in education and a teaching certificate. In the fall of 1948 he began teaching English, speech, drama, and journalism at Colville High School. From 1952-55 he was principal of Colville High.

In 1955 he returned to Pullman and WSC (soon to become WSU) for good to become the Associate Director of Admissions and in 1966 the Director of Admissions. In 1960 he took a leave of absence to be the interim Superintendent of Schools in Pullman. He took another leave in 1969-70 to work at the East Asian Institute of International Education in Hong Kong.

In the latter part of his career he gave much time to international admissions. He traveled extensively, often on behalf of the US State Department and Department of Defense, visiting every continent spreading the gospel of higher education and helping students find a way to fulfill that mission. This work was rewarded with many honors both regional and national, but most important to him was the respect and friendship of colleagues who praised him for his leadership and professionalism.

His deep commitment to education was personal for many former WSU students. By providing encouragement and opportunity he produced legions of admirers who thank him for the role he played in giving them a chance to succeed. Other than his family, it is this legacy which gave him his greatest pride.
After retiring from WSU in 1988, Stan continued to counsel students planning their education and working as an educational consultant with colleagues. He spent several years as member of the Pullman School Board, a tenure marked by his passionate defense of student rights.

He is the beloved icon of his family. Gathering them for food and drink was his greatest pleasure. Stan and Bernette took all the children and grandchildren on a Big Sky, Montana vacations for many summers. It was the highlight of each year as his shelves of meticulously produced photo albums attest. He also took pride in the academic, musical and athletic accomplishments of his children and grandchildren, attending hundreds of performances and games. The support he gave all his children and grandchildren is a value that endures.

One other lasting legacy that Stan has passed on is his passion for the Cougars, a condition that produces great highs and crushing agony. This passion has not weakened as it has passed from generation to generation — the signs are already beginning to surface in the youngest great-grandchildren. Once a Coug…

Stan lived the final years of his life at Bishop Place in Pullman. The family wishes to thank them for the great care and fondness.

Stan was preceded in death by Bernette in 2010. He is survived by Bernice Meier of Pullman, Bernette’s beloved twin sister. He is also survived by his children Richard Berry and Pam of Pullman, Kathy Brown and Kelly of Pullman, and Eugene Berry of Fargo, ND; and seven grandchildren, Sean Berry, Brooklyn, NY; Jason Berry and Lacey, Sumner, WA; Andrea Berry, Pullman; Marissa Stine and Kyle, Spokane; Tyler Brown and Megan, Boise; Alison Brown, Portland, OR; and Jillian Therrien and Josh, Albany, OR.; and his great-grandchildren Lola and Clyde Berry, Sumner and Piper Stine, Spokane.

The family suggests memorial donations to the Stan and Bernette Berry Presidential Scholarship Fund in care of the WSU Foundation.