

## **MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

### **Michael Chiappetta**

**May 23, 1921 - January 17, 2019**

Michael Chiappetta passed away at IU Health Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis early morning January 17, 2019 at the age of ninety-seven. A fascination with other cultures and a commitment to the internationalizing of American education are the twin threads that tie together the remarkable and varied career of his life.

Born May 23 1921, in Tacoma, Washington, Professor Chiappetta graduated from Central High School in Detroit, in 1938, and from the University of Michigan summa cum laude in 1942. After serving in the Air Force from 1942 to 1946, he returned to the University of Michigan where he received an MA in Classics in 1947, and a PhD in Philosophy and History of Education in 1950. He married Violet Funk Chiappetta in 1944, and their children Vincent and Michael were born in 1951 and 1954.

His teaching career began in the high schools of Ann Arbor, where he taught Latin from 1946 to 1950. In 1950, he became an assistant professor of education at Arizona State University, where he taught courses in history, philosophy, the sociology of education, and comparative education. He further directed the off-campus student teaching program and developed a comparative education program in Mexico.

In 1953, he moved to The Pennsylvania State University, where he became an associate professor of education and head of the Division of Social Foundations of Education. He remained at Penn State until 1960.

During the early part of his academic career, Professor Chiappetta developed an abiding interest in Latin American cultures and education systems. He became a widely known authority in those areas at a time when the United States was first undertaking large-scale programs in technical assistance to developing regions of the world.

In 1960, he was lured away from his academic pursuits to serve as a program officer in the United States Agency for International Development with multiple high level assignments in Latin America, particularly in Peru. Following his service to USAID, he was promoted to the position of director of the Multilateral Policy Planning Staff of the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. There he developed international programs in education, science, cultural exchange, and mass communications, while collaborating with both regional and multilateral organizations, such as the Organization of States, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the World Bank.

In 1966, Dr. Michael Chiappetta returned to the academic world, this time to Indiana University, where he was attracted by the strength of the area studies faculties and by the commitment of president Herman B. Wells to international programs. Here he served as professor of education and head of the Department of International and Comparative Education from 1965 to 1977, which developed into one of the premier programs in this field. Other service commitments included directing international programs for the School of Education as well as the Center for Innovations in Human Resource Development, being a member of the executive committee of the Latin American Studies program, and chairing the International Education Council of the Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities.

During these busy years with Indiana University, Professor Chiappetta continued his service to outside agencies as well. He was as an advisor or consultant to the Indiana Department of Public Education, World Education, the Ford and Lilly Foundations, and the Interamerican Development Bank. As part of an effort to give American teachers opportunities to study abroad, he designed the National Education Association's International Institute in Mexico, which opened in 1977. He was a Fulbright Lecturer in Uruguay in 1976, and was an invited speaker throughout Latin America. Many of the innovative educational research and development projects, which he helped design and shepherd beyond their initial stages, have endured with significant impact on the educational opportunities for some of the most disadvantaged populations throughout the Americas and beyond.

Professor Chiappetta's scholarship reflected his wide-ranging interests. He wrote about teacher education, literacy, and a variety of topics in comparative education. Fluent in four languages, he published in Spanish as well as in English. He authored, for example, articles in the *History of Education Journal*, *School and Society*, the *Comparative Educational Leadership* Delta Kappa, and in the *Nation*.

He was an innovative and inspirational teacher who employed a comprehensive range of pedagogical skills. He developed and directed several programs of travel study, including, in the mid-1980s, leading a group of IU students to study at Hangzhou University in China. He exemplified an extraordinarily effective capacity for engaging students with what it was like to live and study in other cultural contexts. A speaker of great wit and power, he won especially high praise for his lectures to large undergraduate classes.

Michael Chiappetta, moreover, was a skillful administrator. A departmental chairperson most of his academic career, he recruited excellent faculty and built strong programs, especially, the prominent International and Comparative Education one. He was especially helpful to young faculty, serving both as a model and wise counselor.

To all his varied tasks, Professor Chiappetta brought energy, enthusiasm, and an

infectious joy for living. A superb athlete, he used his championship handball skills to teach humility to a whole generation of young, unsuspecting colleagues.

In his retirement, Michael Chippetta maintained a very active lifestyle. Not given to looking back, he viewed retirement as simply another turn in his varied career. Notable is the role he played at the Meadowood Retirement Community, where he lived the last twenty years of his life, leading a very successful Great Decisions program on world affairs in conjunction with the IU University Club. To the very end of his life he was actively engaged with creating and steering education programs that contributed to public education on the most important issues facing an increasingly interconnected world that he foresaw and embraced.

We request that this memorial tribute to Michael Chippetta be presented to the members of the Bloomington Faculty Council, that it be preserved in its minutes and archive, and that after its presentation copies be sent to members of his family.

Robert F. Arnove  
Edward B. McClellan  
William Reese