

Dear friends and colleagues,

We received the news today from his daughter Judith that her father, William H. Miernyk, died last night at age 90. Although we are saddened by his passing, we celebrate his life of remarkable achievement and cherished relationships. Bill was mental sharp, quick-witted, and always the true gentleman to the end. He will be missed.

A brief bio:

William H. Miernyk earned both Bachelors and Masters Degrees in economics from the University of Colorado, followed by Masters and Doctoral Degrees in economics from Harvard University. Dedicated to research, he also discovered a love of teaching that would stay with him throughout his entire professorial career. He taught economics at Harvard, Northeastern University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of Colorado before being recruited to West Virginia University to establish the Regional Research Institute. He originally committed to only a temporary stay at WVU, but found the area and work so appealing that he abandoned his plans to return to Colorado.

Perhaps best known for his widely distributed and well-received *The Elements of Input-Output Analysis* (1965), his interests and contributions to knowledge have focused on a much broader set of topics within and beyond regional science. His research has included such topics as pollution abatement, energy prices, unemployment, labor force participation, and migration in the Appalachian states. He has served as a consultant for, among many others, US Senate committees, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and The World Bank. Known for his critical insight, rigor, and excellence in research, his writing was always clear and concise. In addition to numerous contributions to the academic literature, Miernyk extended his sphere of influence to the general public through 17 years of weekly columns published in the Charleston Gazette.

During much of his career, Bill was closely affiliated with the Southern Regional Science Association. He was an SRSA Fellow, and was the organizations fifth president in 1975. It was largely through his efforts and influence that West Virginia University developed into a center of regional science research. Lasting evidence of his role in this context includes the longest-standing regional science oriented university research institute, the Regional Research Institute, and the long list of subsequent WVU contributors to service to several Regional Science councils and executive committees, including the current President and Treasurer, and one council member in the SRSA.

He also was active in the Regional Science Association International, where he served as Vice President in 1972-1973. Bill also was presented with the first RSA Distinguished Scholar Award in 1982. The text of that award read:

In recognition of his contributions to the field of Regional Science, particularly in the areas of regional input-output modeling, regional energy analysis and regional growth and development theory.

Bill's contributions to regional policy and analysis are substantial. His contributions to both theory and method include *Elements of Input-Output Analysis* on which so many of us relied for

IO introduction, and the construction of a survey-based West Virginia IO model that many more of us used in testing and demonstration of our research. His early applications of regional input-output modeling set the standard for similar analyses for years to come, and are still singled out as exemplars in the field.