

University Senate

Proposed: September 15, 2017

Adopted:

RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR WM. THEODORE DE BARY, 1919-2017

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SENATE

WHEREAS Wm. Theodore de Bary CC '41, MA '48, PhD '53 spent the vast majority of his long life in service to Columbia University, as an undergraduate (1937-1941), as a graduate student (1946-1953), as a member of the faculty (1953-1968), as Provost (1971-1978), as John Mitchell Mason Professor of the University (1978-1990), and as Special Service Professor (1990-2017); and

WHEREAS Professor de Bary, a member of our community for 80 years, touched and enriched the lives of students, faculty, administrators, alumni, and staff alike; and

WHEREAS Professor de Bary's efforts starting in 1949 made Columbia University one of the first American universities to introduce a comprehensive program of Asian humanities and philosophy into its undergraduate curriculum; and

WHEREAS Professor de Bary was one of the first American scholars to navigate and bridge the philosophical traditions of East and West, starting with his acclaimed Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Indian sourcebooks published in 1958, and continuing for more than half a century, pioneering a global perspective in higher education; and

WHEREAS in the aftermath of the 1968 protests, Professor de Bary served as a voice of reason in rallying the faculty, stabilizing the University, overseeing the creation of shared governance in the form of the University Senate, which he served as the inaugural Executive Committee chair from 1969 to 1971, when he was appointed Provost of the University; and

WHEREAS Professor de Bary inspired and mentored generations of academic colleagues, serving as the founder or co-founder of the Heyman Center for the Humanities, the Society of Fellows in the Humanities, the Society of Senior Scholars, and the University Lectures; and

WHEREAS Professor de Bary pursued his abiding commitment to undergraduate education by teaching pro bono every semester from his formal retirement in 1990 until shortly before his death; ; and

WHEREAS Professor de Bary's numerous awards and recognitions, including the Great Teacher Award in 1969, the John Jay Award in 1971, the Alexander Hamilton Medal in 1994 and 1999,

LittD *honoris causa* in 1994, the Wm. Theodore and Fanny Brett de Bary and Class of 1941 Collegiate Chair of Asian Humanities, and the National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama CC '83 in 2013, bespeak widespread esteem from his many admirers; and

WHEREAS the strength and quality of the Core Curriculum of Columbia College is evidence of the enormous influence of Professor de Bary's life and career, echoing a relentless commitment that has spanned centuries and continents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

That the Columbia University Senate, representing faculty, students, administration, staff, researchers, librarians and alumni, expresses its condolences to the de Bary family on their loss; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That the Columbia University Senate honors the memory of a distinguished, respected, and beloved teacher, scholar, leader, and colleague.