

**IN MEMORIAM
B. VINCENT DAVIS**

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These annual Kentucky Canadian Studies roundtables are the products of the intellectual and other labors of many people who contribute in large and small ways to this day.

I want to spend a few minutes talking about a man who never attended a single one of these roundtables and yet who even in death casts a long shadow across everything we do here and the process that brings it into being each year. That man is B. Vincent Davis, my colleague, who died on March 28th of this year and whose stamp on Canadian studies in Kentucky will be long felt.

I came to the University of Kentucky in late summer of 1970 and was delighted to learn that Vince had been hired from the University of Denver to direct the Patterson School. As someone who had studied national security affairs, I knew of his excellent scholarship and looked forward to becoming his colleague in the Political Science Department. It became clear to me that the Patterson School was waiting for his arrival, just as he was awaiting his opportunity to set in motion his designs to make its program into nothing less than a first-rate school of diplomacy and international commerce. As the years went by, I marveled at his organizational skills and his boundless energy in taking the Patterson School to a new level of excellence and recognition.

Besides his infectious laugh, his legendary letter writing skills, and his encyclopedic knowledge of just about anybody he came in contact with, I will always remember his generosity. Whether it was a case of mentoring a graduate student, taking a young faculty member under his wing, or educating a reporter about the geo-political realities of the latest regional crisis, Vince never tired of giving of himself to others in ways that made that person somehow better.

Almost fifteen years ago, Vince called Bill Green and me into his office to discuss an opportunity he urged us not to pass up. Knowing of our policy interests in the politics of recruitment of Japanese auto plants in the United States (an interest that had culminated in our second edited book together), Vince sketched out for us the broad details of the Canadian Studies Program that he had culled from a communication or brochure from the Canadian Embassy. Then, finishing his pitch, he took a deep draw from his pipe and concluded enthusiastically, "There's money here somewhere for you, fellas!"

Indeed, there was! On our first try, leavened by one of Vince's celebrated and fabled letters of support, Bill and I were awarded our first research grant from the Canadian Studies Program. Since then, there has been a steady stream of research, teaching, program development, and roundtable assistance grants, none of which would have been likely or even conceivable had Vince not connected the dots between the interests of two scholars and a grant opportunity, and then catalyzed a process that brought them together.

There are many reasons to celebrate the life, scholarship, teaching, service, and administration of B. Vincent Davis. This anecdote is only one of hundreds and even thousands of others that his friends and family hold dear to their hearts. So, on this and succeeding roundtables, I ask to you remember the part Vince played in making this event possible. And in his spirit, let's not merely acknowledge his generosity. Let's follow his example and pass it on!

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