

## **Former city council member, SPEA professor Hopkins - Herald-Times (Bloomington, IN) - May 9, 2002**

May 9, 2002 | Herald-Times (Bloomington, IN) | Doug Wilson Herald-Times Staff Writer

Former city council president **Jack Hopkins** was a Southern gentleman who was deeply committed to the well-being of others.

After a battle with cancer, Hopkins, 72, died early Tuesday afternoon at his Bloomington home.

Those who knew Hopkins well said he never spoke badly of anyone and gave passionately of himself.

A Latin American affairs specialist at Indiana University until he retired in the mid-1990s, Hopkins was instrumental in the creation of Bloomington's sister city relationships with Posoltega, Nicaragua, and Santa Clara, Cuba. He served as an elections observer in Angola, El Salvador and Nicaragua, sometimes putting himself in dangerous situations.

He also initiated a feeding program for Nicaraguan children that's still in operation.

"He was willing to step up and make contributions to help others," said current city council president Chris Gaal, who accompanied Hopkins on a trip to Nicaragua in 1990. "He showed me you can make a big difference by being involved. I think we all will need to make extra contributions because he's no longer with us."

The Fitzgerald, Ga., native came to Bloomington in the 1970s to head the graduate program at IU's School of Public and Environmental Affairs, where he directed several important initiatives including an IU campus in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and the Indiana Center on Global Change and World Peace.

Bloomington Mayor John Fernandez met Hopkins when Fernandez worked in the dean's office at SPEA and Hopkins recruited him to observe a Nicaraguan election. The fellow Democrats also served together on city council.

Hopkins served one term on the council, from 1991 to 1995, before deciding not to run again. He was a staunch advocate of affordable housing programs and other assistance to the poor, as well as for equal rights for gays and other minorities.

City council member Tony Pizzo called Hopkins a wonderful friend with the unusual ability to meet confrontation with grace and criticism with a disarming smile.

Fernandez called Hopkins a wonderful, humorous man who always focused on doing what was right for the community.

"He was serious about issues, but never about himself," Fernandez said. "He'd catch himself being passionate about something he was talking about and just start laughing because that's not the way he usually was."

Former SPEA Dean Charles Bonser recruited Hopkins to IU from Texas Tech University, where Hopkins was chairman of the political science department. Bonser said Hopkins was a dedicated scholar who was careful and uncompromising, and well-liked by his colleagues.

"He never said an unkind word to anybody," Bonser said. "We're going to miss him a lot."

Reporter Doug Wilson can be reached at 331-4369 or by e-mail at [dwilson@heraldt.com](mailto:dwilson@heraldt.com).

#### **CITATION (AGLC STYLE)**

Doug Wilson; Herald-Times Staff Writer, 'Former city council member, SPEA professor Hopkins dies', *Herald-Times* (online), 9 May 2002 <<https://infoweb-newsbank-com.ezproxy.monroe.lib.in.us/apps/news/document-view?p=AWNB&docref=news/14464256463D5210>>

© Copyright 2002 Herald-Times. All rights reserved.