

5-2-15

PRO

PROVIDENCE

**GOODMAN, JAY S., PH.D., J.D.**

of Providence, RI, renowned political science professor, died on May 2, 2015. He was 75. He died with his family at his side following a year-long battle with lung cancer. Despite his illness, he continued to teach throughout his entire 50th year as professor at Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts.

Mr. Goodman was a gifted teacher with an encyclopedic knowledge of American politics. During his half-century at Wheaton, he taught over 10,000 students. His unstinting mentorship extended over post-class chats in his office, at campus dining halls, and nearby Italian restaurants.

Known for taking promising students under his wing, he guided hundreds of students into careers in government, law, and politics. He loved sharing his passion for politics with all students and was proud of those he helped to pursue national scholarships, including Trumans, Rhodes, and Marshalls. "It's not about class, or pedigree, or money," he told the Wheaton Quarterly. "These kids have the talent? They win. It's great."

His coaching methods were bolstered by his partnership with his wife of 25 years, Gail Berson, who served as Wheaton's Vice President for Enrollment and Dean of Admission until 2014. "I'm sending you another one, Jay," she

PROVIDENCE

2005.

While serving as the pre-law advisor at Wheaton in, Mr. Goodman was persuaded by his students in 1975 to attend law school himself. He enrolled in the evening program at Suffolk Law School, and received his J.D. in 1978.

He was admitted to the Rhode Island and Massachusetts Bar Associations and served as a federal Clerk to the Hon. Francis J. Boyle, Chief Judge, United

States District Court. He went on to become a founding partner in a major RI law firm, and later established his own small law and lobbying practice.

Mr. Goodman was born on January 16, 1940 in Saint Louis, Missouri, to Harold and Minnie Goodman. His mother held a law degree, unusual for a woman at the time, as did his father. For several years they ran a practice together. Minnie later became a school teacher, while Harold helped manage the family sporting and hunting store, Goodman's For Guns.

Mr. Goodman attended University City High School, graduating in 1957. He went on to attend Beloit College in Wisconsin. The personal attention he received from Beloit professors later inspired him to become a teacher. A member of Beloit's Young Democrats, he grew active in political campaigns. "I liked meeting people. I liked the issues. That was real work—you sent out brochures, you knocked on doors, you learned a lot," he told the Wheaton Quarterly.

After Beloit, he received a Woodrow Wilson Foundation Fellowship and attended Stanford for his MA in political science. Mr. Goodman received his PhD at Brown University, and was hired at nearby Wheaton College in