



Mark J. Van Aken, Professor Emeritus of the Department of History, Passed Away December 9, 2016.

Mark J. Van Aken, Professor Emeritus of the Department of History, passed away December 9, 2016. He was a member of the faculty from 1960 to 1963, then again from 1966 until his retirement in 1986. He entered the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP) and taught until 1993. For the 1970-1971 academic year he served as Acting Dean of the School of Arts, Letters, and Social Sciences (now College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences).

The following has been provided by the Van Aken family:

Mark Jay Van Aken, professor emeritus of the Department of History, passed away peacefully on December 9, 2016. He is survived by his wife Dolores, son Philip and grandchildren Leslie, Kelly and Mark.

Mark was born April 9, 1922 in Elkhart, Indiana and grew up in Coldwater, Michigan. Mark did his undergraduate work at the University of Michigan, spent World War II on a sub-chaser in the Pacific, studied at the University of Tucuman in Argentina and then earned his Ph.D. in history in 1955 from the University of California, Berkeley.

Mark and Dolores married in San Leandro in 1952 as he worked on his Ph.D. As part of that work they lived in Madrid, Spain where he searched diplomatic archives and found and decoded communications from Juan Jose Flores seeking a royal to rule Ecuador.

Mark published three books: *Pan-Hispanism, Its Origin and Development to 1866*, was published by U.C. Press in 1959; *King of the Night: Juan José Flores and Ecuador, 1824-1864*, was published by U.C. Press in 1989; *Los Militantes. Una Historia Del Movimiento Estudiantil Universitario Uruguayo Desde Sus Origenes Hasta 1966*, was published by Fundación De Cultura Universitaria in 1990.

Mark's teaching career began at Memphis State and then San Diego State. In 1960 Mark joined Alameda County State College (now CSU East Bay) where he taught until 1963. From 1963 to 1966 Mark taught at Duke University but missing friends and colleagues in the Bay Area. He returned to Cal State Hayward (East Bay) where he remained until retirement in 1994. Mark served briefly as Acting Dean of the School of Arts, Letters and Social Sciences in 1970-71. But his love, and the majority of his career, was teaching Latin American History.

© Copyright California State University, East Bay