

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
Nevin Raber Jr.
1919-2019

Nevin W. Raber Jr., former business librarian and assistant professor emeritus of business administration, died February 6, 2019, at IU Health Hospice. He was 100 years old.

Nevin Willard Raber Jr. was born at home in Fowlerton (Grant County), Indiana, son of Nevin Willard Raber and Ida (Decker) Raber. In 1929, the family moved to Santa Fe (Miami County), Indiana, where his father was assigned as agent for the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway and the family residence was the living quarters of the railway station. He graduated from the Butler Township High School after attending the one-room Santa Fe grade school.

Following graduation, Raber attended International College in Fort Wayne, where he received a diploma in general business. Shortly thereafter, he was employed by the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway as a telegraph operator and station agent. He continued working at most of the stations between Chicago and Cincinnati during summer and holiday vacations while attending Purdue University.

At Purdue, his major studies were general sciences, English literature, and history. As an ROTC cadet, he attained the rank of cadet colonel, was selected to be a member of Scabbard & Blade, was awarded the Purdue Order of Military Merit, and won the Albert Smith Tactical Competition prize saber. Also, as a member of the intercollegiate pistol team, he was awarded a "Block P" letter. Nevin was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant of field artillery upon graduation with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1942. He was a Phi Kappa Tau fraternity member where he served as the chapter treasurer.

During WWII, Nevin was stationed at various army camps in the U.S. with different medium and heavy field artillery battalions and was sent to the Philippine Islands in 1945. Upon his return in 1946, he reverted to reserve status and was assigned to various artillery units until 1962 when he was transferred to The Adjutant General Corps and assigned to the AGC School at Ft. Benjamin Harrison. He retired from the army in 1978 with the rank of major.

After the war, Nevin entered the Graduate School at Indiana University with a goal of becoming a diplomatic historian. He completed the coursework for a master's degree, but left in 1947 without completing a thesis. Relying on his experience as a railway agent, he secured a position in the traffic department of the Wm. H. Block Co. in Indianapolis. While employed, he completed a course in traffic management at Butler University and was inducted into the professional fraternity Delta Nu Alpha. Three years later, he was offered a position with the Indianapolis Public Library business branch and began his career as a librarian.

Since future advancement required a library degree, Nevin returned to Indiana University, re-enrolled in the Graduate School, and entered the library science program. While completing the library science degree requirements, he also finished his history thesis. In 1952, he was awarded Master of Arts degrees in both history and library science, and he returned to the Indianapolis Public Library as head of the business branch. In 1957, he was promoted to assistant director of the Indianapolis Public Library system. In 1962, Nevin was offered the position as head of the business library at Indiana University, which he accepted. He was appointed to the faculty as assistant professor of business administration in

the Kelley School of Business and as business librarian in the university libraries. He retired in 1983 and was awarded emeritus status on both faculties.

During his library career, Nevin was a member of the American Library Association, the Indiana Library Federation and the Special Libraries Association and its Indiana chapter. He served a term as president of the SLA Indiana chapter and on numerous committees in the other organizations. He was involved in the design or remodeling of a number of libraries and was a consultant for library operation and interior layout.

Nevin met Dorothy Lockman while they were students at Purdue University. After graduation, Nevin was called to duty with the army, and Dorothy was awarded a dietetics internship at the Indiana University Medical Center hospitals. They married in 1943, and their children, Nevin Douglas (Jessica) Raber and Ann (Charles) Dobbs of Bloomington; granddaughter Hannah (Matthew) Cummings; great-grandson Oscar Nevin Cummings; and grandson Jonathan Nevin Dobbs survive. After 71 years of loving marriage, Dorothy died in 2014.

Idalene Kesner
Former Dean, Kelley School of Business
Indiana University Bloomington