

Robert Walker Angell

Obituary

Robert Walker Angell, University of Denver Professor Emeritus, passed away peacefully at Swedish Hospital on March 25, 2021. Born on April 24, 1929, he was the eldest son of George H., and Dorothy Walker Angell. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Elissa Becker Angell, and by both his brothers, Scott Angell, and Laurence Angell. He is survived by his second wife, Abigail Ellis Angell.

Prior to pursuing his academic career, Dr. Angell enlisted in the Army Air Force, serving as a Weather Squadron technician on a number of American military bases and at Sondrestrom Air Base in Greenland. After receiving an Honorable Discharge from the military, Dr. Angell attended Beloit College, graduating with a bachelor of science degree in paleozoology, going on to earn both a master's degree and a Ph.D. in paleozoology from the University of Chicago, and to do his post-doctoral work at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

In 1967 Dr. Angell accepted a professorship at the University of Denver in the biology department, remaining on its staff until his retirement in 1991. While at D.U., Dr. Angell proved to be a man of many accomplishments. He directed the university's field station on Mount Evans every summer, and participated in the opera program at the Lamont School of Music, for which he established the Elissa Becker Angell Opera Fund. Dr. Angell also served as the president of the D.U. faculty senate.

An ardent conservationist and animal activist, Dr. Angell was deeply involved in wildlife conservation, as a member of the Humane Society of the United States, (HSUS), and as a founding member of the Southern Plains Land Trust, (SPLT). As a co-founder of People Allied With Wildlife, (PAWW), he worked successfully with the Colorado legislature, introducing an initiative to stop the trapping of animals, the illegal shooting of mountain goats, and the prohibiting of spring bear hunting.

Dr. Angell enjoyed camping in the mountains of Colorado and the southwest, taking pictures of the indigenous wildlife. His hobbies included writing screenplays and stage plays. A knowledgeable fan of world history, he authored a number of plays about some of his fondest historical figures, including Albert Schweitzer and Johannes Kepler. His film, "On Time", was featured at the 2012 Beloit Film Festival.

A well-respected teacher and humanitarian, Robert Angell will be greatly missed by his many friends, acquaintances, and relatives. His wish was to be cremated, and to have his ashes spread on Mount Evans. Plans for a gathering to honor his life are to be determined. In remembrance of his life, donations may be made to the Southern Plains Land Trust (SPLT), at southernplains.org.