

Terence “Terry” Russell McKague

April 3, 1939 – January 1, 2026



The many people whose lives were touched by Terry McKague will be saddened to learn of his death “in the pre-dawn darkness” (to quote one of Terry’s many past Christmas letters), the first morning of this new year. Terry wrote much of this obituary himself, which reflects some of his many fine qualities: thoughtfulness; meticulousness; and a love of storytelling.

Born in 1939 in Regina, where he was proud to live much of his life, Terry was the younger son of Mabel and Frank, former teachers, and a brother to Ormond, who was an integral part of his life.

Raised in east Regina, Terry attended Wetmore School and Central Collegiate, where his aptitude for music and drama emerged. Thanks to the Conservatory of Music, Regina Children’s Theatre and the Golden Jubilee Choir, Terry had many opportunities to develop his skills.

He discovered early his interest in teaching, which served him well throughout his life. Whether in a high school or university classroom, a teachers’ convention or perhaps a church sanctuary, Terry was considered a person with something worthwhile to say and a way to make it sound interesting.

The church was an important part of Terry’s life from the time he was an infant at Carmichael Church to his funeral at his own church, Harmony United, 86 years later. He took great pride in being part of the United Church of Canada and served at all levels of ministry.

Fittingly, Terry met his future bride, Sheila Ledingham, at church, while attending university in Saskatoon. In 1963 Terry and Sheila married at Knox United Church and began a life together that spanned 62 years.

Terry’s graduate program took them to Edmonton, where Michael was born, and then to Saskatoon where Meredith was born. After three years of university teaching, Terry joined the staff of the Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation where he spent the rest of his career, occasionally joking about the number of strategic planning sessions he had to take part in, in blue-smoked-filled boardrooms, while drinking coffee from styrofoam cups. His transfer to Regina in 1973 was the last move in a rewarding professional journey filled with satisfying experiences and worthwhile pursuits.

Becoming Chancellor of the University of Regina in 1989 was a highlight of Terry’s professional career. Though still employed full time, he devoted all leisure hours to his role at the university and was rewarded in so many ways. After his six-year term, Terry was able to recount his time as Chancellor by authoring the book, *The University in the Nineties*. Another once in a lifetime

opportunity was to be seconded to the Department of Education to coordinate the curriculum review for the Directions Report (1984), which influenced K – 12 education reform.

Terry served his community through leadership in groups such as SK History and Folklore Society, Canadian Club, the Provincial Honour's Advisory Committee, and Superannuated Teachers of SK. He also supported literacy organizations and the local arts community.

Terry travelled extensively, visiting five continents. Working with educators in Africa, Taiwan and the Caribbean was deeply meaningful. A sabbatical allowed him to pursue a post-doctoral program at UCLA while the family lived in Santa Monica. Travels with close friends in Europe and California, visiting Ormond in various locales, and many satisfying trips with Sheila were re-lived in recent years as he read over their trip diaries while sitting by the fire in their condo.

At home, he felt blessed to live in lovely surroundings, made more attractive by Sheila's unerring good taste and where appreciation for original Canadian art was evident. He valued time at his family's cottage in the south at Katepwa Lake and north at the Ledingham cabin at Emma Lake. Between these locations was the century old Ledingham farm at Hawarden, where he enjoyed the many gatherings of Sheila's extended family. Closer to home, it was always a pleasure to visit the farm at Lang, where sister-in-law Lois and her husband Rob were such welcoming hosts.

Terry delighted in his family and their achievements. How fortunate he felt that his children were easy to raise with values that reflected those their parents exemplified and to have grandchildren living close who excelled both academically and athletically. Terry cherished opportunities to spend time with them, whether at a drafty sports facility, a high school graduation, at the lake or on family winter holidays in Mexico.

For someone born and raised amid simple surroundings, Terry lived quite a remarkable life. He made the most of his abilities and embraced all that came his way. He felt so fortunate to have married the woman he did, to help raise amazing children and to watch grandchildren make their way in the world. He delight in acts of kindness to others, gained satisfaction from service, believed deeply in the value of education, was keenly interested in those he met, and always had a witty anecdote to share.

While he sometimes wished that he could play golf, pound a nail properly or jog around Wascana Lake, he was grateful for the life he lived and the opportunities that were his to enjoy. Perhaps, even now, in his death, he continues to look forward to his late afternoon glass of scotch and gratefully look back on the full and satisfying life he led.

Terry is survived by wife Sheila, children Michael (Juliet), Meredith (Richard) and grandchildren Ava, Isabel, Liam and Stella, and many friends, neighbours, former students and colleagues whose lives he enriched.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to a bursary in Terry's memory in the Faculty of Education at the University of Regina (to do so, contact samira.azzahir@uregina.ca) or to Carmichael Outreach at <https://carmichaeloutreach.ca/donate/>

A Celebration of Life will be held on **Saturday, January 10th 2026 at 2pm at Harmony United Church**, 177 Sunset Dr., Regina. Livestream link: [Harmony United Church - YouTube](#)

Arrangements by Regina Funeral Home and Cemetery.