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**Memorial Resolution  
For  
Professor Emeritus Nicholas W. Balabkins  
College of Business, Lehigh University  
1 September 2023**

Nicholas W. Balabkins was an extraordinary teacher and researcher. After undergraduate study at the University of Göttingen in Germany, Nick immigrated to the U.S. and settled with his family in New Jersey. His Baltic Sea escape from Latvia through England and then on to the U.S. as World War II drew to a close could well have served as the plot for a Steve McQueen film. He spent two years as an assembler in a glass factory while learning English, and then enrolled in Rutgers University for graduate study in economics. Nick earned his Doctorate in Economics in 1956 and joined Lehigh University during the following year.

For 37 years until his retirement in 1994, he was considered one of the best teachers at the university, receiving the Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1994. In his teaching, he combined approachability and academic rigor. Students liked his ready smile and colorful bowties but soon realized that he was serious about learning. Many of his students who went on to successful careers contacted him decades later to thank him for what they learned in his class.

Nick's range of research and scholarship was broad. He wrote a dozen books and over forty published professional articles that spanned economic theory, economic history, economic sociology, statistics, and technology. His research was published in outlets such as the European Journal of Law and Economics, Journal of the History of Economic Thought, and Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics. He served a three-year term as a member of the prestigious Journal of Economic Literature Board of Editors from 1980 through 1982. His best known work was his 1971 book "West German Reparations to Israel," published by the Rutgers University Press, which is still sold on the Kindle e-book platform. At the time of his death, he had nearly completed a new work on U.S. infrastructure investment. Fluent in four languages and able to communicate in several others, he maintained a rich international correspondence.

Nick's reputation was such that, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, he received several high honors from the government of his home of birth, Latvia, such as the Latvian Academy of Science's prestigious Karlis Balodis Medal for lifetime achievements in economics. Nick was also offered a senior government position but thought that greater social value would derive from his independent teaching and research than his participation in the public service arena.

Nicholas W. Balabkins was an extraordinary professor, colleague, and friend; we will not see the likes of him again!

Frank R. Gunter  
Chad D. Meyerhoefer  
Vincent G. Munley