

Douglas Jon Hoekstra, Ph.D



Douglas Jon Hoekstra, Ph.D Okemos, MI Douglas was born in Grand Rapids on November 19, 1942 and passed away on May 21, 2006, at the age of 63. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Ellen Louise (Jarvis); his children, David, 24, and Elisabeth, 19; mother, Willene of Grand Rapids; siblings, David (Ann) of Chicago, Diane (Ken) Dawson of Lady Lake, FL, and Patricia Dine of Fremont; mother-in-law, Gwendolyn Jarvis of Lansing; as well as nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, George. Douglas lived in Okemos and had been a professor at James Madison College, MSU, for 36 years. He graduated from Grand Rapids South High School before receiving his associate's degree from Grand Rapids Junior College, and his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D degrees from Michigan State University. As a professor, he inspired generations of students with his teaching of American politics, the founding, and especially the presidency. As a scholar, he contributed greatly to the study of the presidency, with particular emphasis on the role of character in decision-making. His most recent research drew upon original documents and focused on President Gerald R. Ford, whose football locker he used in high school. In his personal life, Doug's great love was his wife, children, and other family members. He valued time spent with friends over good food and wine. His idea of respite was the Sunday Times or a mystery, occasionally combined with a trip to Traverse City's East Bay. He read voraciously, enjoyed movies, followed MSU sports, and traveled widely, but less than he wished to. His friends and colleagues will miss his acerbic wit and critical intelligence more than his cryptic e-mails and shameless puns. **Funeral services will be held Friday, May 26, 11:00 a.m. at the Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2558 Bennett Road, Okemos** with the Rev. Rob Carlson officiating. The family will receive friends at the Gorsline-Runciman Funeral Homes, 1730 E. Grand River Avenue, East Lansing Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages contributions to the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, 1169 Oak Valley Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108. His family would be deeply grateful to his friends who submit an organ donation card. The gift of life was Doug's own last contribution.

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