

## **In Memoriam**

### **Letter from the Editors**

**Vyacheslav Khrapak**  
**Michael King**  
**Luanne Kuelzer-Eckhout**  
*Editors, Journal of Thought*

Dear Readers,

The editorial team here at the *Journal of Thought* was saddened recently when we learned of the death of Dr. James J. Van Patten. Dr. Van Patten was the founder of the *Journal of Thought*, and made many contributions to educational philosophy in the United States and to international academia as a whole. We would like to take a moment to remember Dr. Van Patten, and to dedicate this issue of the *Journal of Thought* to his memory.

Dr. Van Patten was a veteran of the Western Front in World War II. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and earned a Purple Heart. After returning home from the war, he dedicated his life to education. He earned his bachelor's degree in Syracuse, New York. In 1961, Dr. Van Patten went on to earn a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Texas in Austin. He married Major Anita Cox in September of that same year.

The *Journal of Thought* was founded by Dr. Van Patten, and under his leadership the first issue was published in 1966. He served as the Editor for many years, as well as serving on the Society of Philosophy and History of Education's (SOPHE) editorial review panel. SOPHE is currently the sponsor of the *Journal of Thought*.

Dr. Van Patten's career as an educator was long and varied. For 35 years he taught at the University of Arkansas. While serving on the faculty there he published over two hundred articles in journals. He spent another ten years at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton,

Florida. Following his time in Florida, Dr. Van Patten spent two years as an aide for international development in Cali, Colombia, and taught in Ecuador, Bolivia, Spain, Russia, and China.

Dr. Van Patten passed away on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at the age of 90. He is survived by his wife, Anita, his brother, Robert Van Patten, his niece, Alison Verbeck, and his nephews, Jeffrey and David Van Patten. He was a member of the Christian Science Church in Fayetteville, Arkansas, for many years, and he will be missed.

While we at the *Journal of Thought* are saddened to hear of Dr. Van Patten's passing, we are confident that he would be proud of our efforts to continue the work he started here. In his memory, we will continue to provide in-depth exploration and discussion of current issues, problems, and emerging schools of thought in the education community through the journal he founded.

Sincerely,

Vyacheslav Khrapak  
Michael King  
Luanne Kuelzer-Eckhout