Ernest S. Frerichs 1925- 2013

Professor Ernest S. Frerichs, 88, of Warren, RI died on November 11, 2013. A beloved husband, father, grandfather, teacher, and scholar, Professor Frerichs began his career as an undergraduate at Brown in 1942. From 1943 to 1946 he served in the United States Army, returning to the University to receive his A.B. Magna cum Laude in 1948, and subsequently earning an M.A. from Harvard University, the S.T.B. degree from Boston University School of Theology and a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from Boston University Graduate School in 1957.

Professor Frerichs had a long and distinguished career at Brown University, from his initial appointment as Instructor in 1953 until his 1995 retirement as Professor of Religious Studies. His field of scholarship was the Hebrew Bible and the history of Biblical interpretation and his scholarly work included writing or editing sixteen books and numerous articles. He also held a number of administrative positions at the University, including Dean of the Graduate School. In addition to his work at Brown, Professor Frerichs was a visiting professor at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in England, the Boston University School of Theology, and the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem, serving as its President from 1976 to 1982. Professor Frerichs was also active in numerous professional organizations and after his retirement became Executive Director of the Dorot Foundation, a family foundation with a long history in Jewish higher education reflected in the endowment of professorial chairs in Judaic Studies (including at Brown), of travel grants for American students studying in Israel, and for its fellowship program, the Dorot Fellowship in Israel.

It was at Brown that Professor Frerichs met his late wife of fifty-nine years, Dr. Sarah Cutts Frerichs, with whom he had three children. He is survived by his son David, four grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren. Condolences may be left at monahandrabblesherman.com. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the W.F. Albright Institute, Box 40151, Philadelphia, PA 19106 or to Autism Project R.I., 1516 Atwood Ave., Johnston, RI 02919.

Maud Mandel