

In Memoriam: John J. Carrigg (1921–2015)

Kimberly Georgedes

John J. Carrigg, Ph.D., affectionately known as “Doc,” who died on February 10, 2015, was a dynamic and beloved member of the Department of History of Franciscan University of Steubenville for over fifty years. He was also a member of the Society of Catholic Social Scientists since its founding in 1992. Born to a staunch Irish-Catholic family in Buffalo, New York, he attended Canisius High School and College there, and very nearly became a Jesuit. He served in a mortar platoon of the 7th Armored Infantry Battalion, 8th Armored Division of the U.S. Army in World War II, which led to many stories in one of his most popular courses on the Second World War. He returned home with the Purple Heart. After the War, he received his Ph.D. in History from Georgetown University, where he met his wife, Mary, who was from Sandusky, Ohio. They had ten children. They came to the College of Steubenville (now Franciscan University of Steubenville) soon after it was founded in the late 1940s, where he served faithfully until he retired in the late 1990s. His classes were enormously popular, especially “Lives of the Saints” and “World War II.” He was a marvelous storyteller, and would often take on the character of the person about whom he was teaching. He loved Francis Parkman’s *History of the Jesuits in North America*, and telling the lives and deaths of the Jesuit martyrs in North America brought tears to his eyes, as well as to those of his students. He was also active for many years in local politics in Steubenville and Jefferson County, Ohio, serving as city councilman, president of the Council and County Treasurer. He was also the author of “Daniel Carroll: Merchant-Planter and Founding Father (1730–1796),” in *Catholic Makers of America: Biographical Sketches of Catholic Statesmen and Political Thinkers in America’s First Century, 1776–1876*, edited by Stephen M. Krason (Christendom Press, 1993), and of “Murray and the Soviet Union,” in *We Hold These Truths and More: Further Catholic Reflections on the American Proposition—The Thought of Fr. John Courtney Murray, S.J., and Its Relevance Today*, edited by Donald J. D’Elia and Stephen M. Krason (Franciscan University Press, 1993), as well as several conference papers. He was a marvelous example of a true Catholic husband, father, and historian.