

In Memoriam: Richard Louis Cole

John Kincaid

Lafayette College

Professor Emeritus Richard L. Cole (1946–2017) passed away in Texas, his home state, on January 8, 2017 from cancer. He is survived by his wife, Norma; his children Jonathan Cole and wife, Emily, Ashley Cole, and Carina Souflée; and his brother Randal and wife, Erica.

Richard had a long association with *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*. During his forty-five-year academic career, he authored or coauthored seventeen articles in the journal. The first was “Dimensions of Elite Opposition to Consolidation,” *Publius* 2:2 (1972) written with David A. Caputo. His last article was “Citizen Evaluations of Federalism and the Importance of Trust in the Federation Government for Opinions on Regional Equity and Subordination in Four Countries,” *Publius* 46:1 (2016) coauthored with John Kincaid. He also served as Book Review Editor of *Publius* from Fall 2011 to Winter 2016 and as a member of the Editorial Advisory Council from Spring 2000 until 2017.

During his career, Richard published in many other prominent journals, including the *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Law & Politics*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Public Administration Review*, *Social Science Quarterly*, and *Urban Affairs Quarterly*. He also produced several textbooks, including *The Politics of American Government* (1999) written with Stephen J. Wayne, G. Calvin Mackenzie, and David O’Brien, *Introduction to Political Science and Policy Research* (1996), and *Texas Politics and Public Policy* (1987) coedited with Del Taebel.

He served on the editorial boards of the *American Politics Quarterly*, *Journal of Community Action*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Public Administration Review*, and *Research on Urban Policy*. He was president of the Southwest Political Science Association in 1991–92. He also served as a Senior Scholar in Residence and Fulbright Scholar at Queen’s University in Belfast, Northern Ireland, during 2004 and as a Senior Research Associate at the LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin during 2008.

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Richard was a faithful supporter of the Section on Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations of the American Political Science Association since the section's founding in 1983. He participated regularly in the business meetings, served on the section's council in 1992–94 and 2002–04, chaired a number of section committees over the years, and won the section's Outstanding Paper Award in 1996.

Richard received his BA and MA from North Texas State University in 1967 and 1968 and his Ph.D. from Purdue University in 1973. He was an assistant and associate professor at The George Washington University (1973–79), and served twenty-eight years as Dean of the School of Urban and Public Affairs at the University of Texas, Arlington (1980–2008). He retired in 2016. His specialties were urban affairs, public policy, federalism and intergovernmental relations, and methodology.

Richard was an accomplished scholar and unassuming man who worked productively and congenially with many colleagues. Early in his career, he wrote extensively on General Revenue Sharing, including local citizen participation in the program. Over the years, he examined the place of cities in the American federal system and also published many opinion survey articles, including citizen attitudes toward American, Canadian, and Mexican federalism and intergovernmental relations coauthored with John Kincaid and Alejandro Rodriguez, and several decennial articles with Carl W. Stenberg III and Carol S. Weissert plumbing scholars' rankings of key U.S. intergovernmental issues. He surveyed the views of federalism scholars in political science and public administration on terrorism's impacts on the federal system and the attitudes of different types of state and local officials on many issues. Unfortunately, Richard's illness compelled him to retire from the university and from ongoing research activities, including a project on federal political culture with A. J. Brown at Griffith University, Queensland, and John Kincaid, funded by the Australian Research Council.

Richard was a much-loved teacher who grew to enjoy even his online courses. He mentored students and junior faculty, and he taught many students who later became city managers, county commissioners, and other public servants. In his last years, he taught courses on intermediate data analysis and on American federalism and intergovernmental relations. Each year, at the start of his federalism course, he gave his students a humorous quiz to test their knowledge of federalism past and present and of Texas-federal relations. He sent me those quizzes; I miss them.

On a personal note, Richard and his wife were generous and wonderful friends as well as engaging and convivial travel buddies for my wife and me. We presented papers at a number of meetings of the International Political Science Association, including those in Fukuoka, Japan, Santiago, Chile, Madrid, Spain, and Montreal, Canada. In Fukuoka, we were in time to see the fascinating Hakata Gion Yamakasa festival. From Chile, we visited Easter Island for an enchanting week with the

mystical Moai constructed by the Rapa Nui. In 2011, we were captivated by the intriguing sites of Iceland, including the Althing at Thingvellir and Richard and Norma covered with white mud in the Blue Lagoon.

In his last years, Richard took up op-ed writing for the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram*. In April 2016, he wrote that U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders' presidential-campaign proposals to improve income inequality would be substantially thwarted in Texas because the state has the country's seventh worst income gap between the poor and the rich and the fifth most regressive tax system. A reader accused Richard of promoting socialism. In August 2016, he wrote that: on the whole, Texas' secession from the union, aside from being constitutionally impossible, would be disadvantageous, not the least because the Dallas Cowboys football team could no longer claim to be "America's Team." "If legal, economic and political forces are not strong enough [to keep Texas in the union], football, the undeclared religion of Texas," he averred, "ensures that Texas' place in the union remains secure."

Likewise, Richard's place in the hearts of all who knew him remains secure.