

OBITUARY

PAUL K. CLARE (1939–2005)

Paul K. Clare, a professor emeritus of sociology and criminal justice at SUNY Plattsburgh, died suddenly at his retirement home in Bradenton, Fla., on May 13, 2005. He was 66 years old. Professor Clare was an authority on organized crime and international terrorism. His most notable work investigated the racketeering and paramilitary (“terrorist”) organizations of Northern Ireland. Shunning what he called “guided tours” for naïve visitors provided by political wings of the Republican paramilitary organizations, Paul conducted hundreds of hours of taped interviews on the streets and in the pubs of Belfast and Derry, talking to those with direct knowledge of, or directly involved in, the violence; nights were spent sleeping on the couches of friends and research “contacts.” The information that Paul Clare was able to obtain is testimony to the trust his contacts had in Paul’s discretion, as some of them were subjects of prior assassination attempts. He fascinated a generation of scholars at the numerous academic conferences with the results of interviews detailing the rationale, organization and methods of resistance.

Professor Clare served on the Executive Board of the International Association for the Study of Organized Crime (IASOC), with whom he published his seminal book, *Racketeering in Northern Ireland: A New Version of the Patriot Game* (1988). He was the 1996 recipient of IASOC’s Founders Award. He also co-authored (with John Kramer), *Introduction to American Corrections* (Allyn and Bacon, 1976), as well as numerous articles and reviews.

Paul K. Clare was born on February 20, 1939, in Northampton, Massachusetts. After serving four years in the United States Air Force, Paul completed his undergraduate work at the University of Dubuque in Iowa, and his graduate work at the University of Iowa. Earlier in his career, Paul was a psychiatric social worker in Massachusetts and a correctional counselor at the Iowa Men’s Reformatory. He began his teaching career at Mankato State College in Minnesota, and was Coordinator of Correctional Training there. He spent his last 26 years of teaching at Plattsburgh, where he was instrumental in establishing a program in criminal justice. Paul was a devoted but decidedly low-key teacher and mentor to thousands of students, providing them guidance, direction, and encouragement. As a long-time advisor to the Sociology & Criminal Justice Club, Paul conducted many field trips to area prisons, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Headquarters in Ottawa, and to Washington for late-night police ride-alongs in D.C.’s most dangerous precincts.

In addition to his wife of 44 years, Sue, Paul K. Clare is survived by a son, Jim, of Union City, N.J., daughters Kathy Brickman of Ramsey, N.J. and Caroline Davis of Wiscasset, Maine, and five grandchildren.

Robert P. Weiss
SUNY Plattsburgh