

# Honoring the life of Bill Chambliss

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Bill Chambliss, Professor of Sociology at the George Washington University since 1986, died on February 22, 2014.

A towering figure in sociology, Bill's work transformed the scholarly worlds of social theory, the sociology of law, and criminology. Among his "associates" were leading crime figures and the victims of their actions. As his longtime friend and fellow sociologist Richard Applebaum stated, "Bill repeatedly went to the streets. He hung out with such notorious organized crime chiefs as Meyer Lansky as well as low-level drug dealers and petty criminals in Seattle; poppy growers, heroin traffickers, and CIA chiefs in Thailand's Golden Triangle; pirates of many stripes, whenever he could find them."

In a career spanning more than 50 years, he produced almost two dozen books and countless articles, which were frequently reprinted over the decades. He was elected President of the American Society of Criminology in 1998, President of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in 1993, and received lifetime achievement awards from the American Sociological Association Sections on Criminology in 1985 and the Sociology of Law in 2009. The American Society of Criminology awarded him the society's Major Achievement Award in 1995 and the Edwin H. Sutherland Award in 2001. In 2012, the Society for the Study of Social Problems created the William J. Chambliss Lifetime Achievement Award and Bill was the first recipient. Bill's life was filled with scholarly achievement and joy, both of which he shared with all those around him.

**Bill truly "spoke truth to power" before that phrase became a cliché and his influence will long live on. To celebrate Bill's life and legacy, make a gift to support graduate students in sociology at the George Washington University. There are three easy ways to give:**

- Online at [go.gwu.edu/billchambliss](http://go.gwu.edu/billchambliss)
- Mail a check, payable to George Washington University and "Sociology in memory of Bill Chambliss" in the memo line, to 2100 M Street NW, Suite 310, Washington, DC 20052
- Call 1-800-789-2611

