

In Memoriam: Howard T. Prince II



Howard T. Prince II, a longtime LBJ professor and retired brigadier general, died on May 19, 2021 from a rare form of blood cancer. He is survived by his wife, Susan, and family. A burial will take place at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and a memorial service will be held in Belton, Texas, where he grew up.

Prince, a clinical professor who held the Loyd Hackler Endowed Chair in

Ethical Leadership here at the LBJ School, was known across the country for his own personal leadership and for building programs in leadership studies. In its [2010 profile of Prince, *The Alcalde* wrote](#): "There is perhaps no greater expert on leadership development in the country. No one has more profoundly altered the character and leadership training of the modern United States Army."

Prince's belief in ethical leadership was rooted in his experiences as a highly decorated U.S. Army combat veteran in Vietnam. He earned his Ph.D. in clinical psychology at The University of Texas at Austin before returning to his alma mater, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where as the youngest colonel in the Army he was appointed to lead its new Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership. He also played an important role in integrating the military academy to include women among its students.

After serving as the founding dean and professor of leadership studies at the University of Richmond's Jepson School of Leadership Studies, he returned to the Forty Acres and joined the LBJ School in 1999. Under the leadership of then-Dean Ed Dorn, he became the director of the Center for Ethical Leadership and a faculty member who ultimately taught nearly 900 students during his tenure. Early in the development of the undergraduate Bridging Disciplines Programs, he volunteered to serve as a member of the faculty steering committee and in 2006 was asked to develop and teach a capstone course on leadership and ethics for the Leadership and Ethics BDP. He taught the course every year until his retirement in 2019.

The 2010 *Alcalde* article explored one of the things that made Prince's teaching so special:

"On the first day of classes, Prince takes his LBJ School students on a thought experiment. Let's say you've won a prestigious Presidential Management Internship in Washington, DC, and your boss calls you in. She has a special project for you. She wants you to devise a strategy for the U.S. Postal Service to get out of the red and wants you to look at how

to increase revenues by offering payday loans.

Prince asks for ideas, and the students throw themselves into the project, offering some basic ones at first but gradually developing more sophisticated and ambitious plans. Imagining their fake internships on the line and their fake boss offering them a chance to impress, the students bring all their ambition and creativity to the task. At the end, Prince makes his point. 'I heard a lot of great ideas, but how come no one asked whether the postal service should be raising money on the backs of poor people? The first step in ethical leadership,' he says, 'is recognizing when you're facing an ethical dilemma.'"

Prince connected the LBJ School to many colleges and universities in the U.S. as well as other countries, notably several universities in Mexico, through the Hatton W. Sumners Student Leadership Conference that he organized and hosted annually for 16 years. The Sumners Foundation supported the conference with grants of more than \$2.8 million during those years. Over 2,600 participants have attended one of these Conferences, and Prince selected and trained almost 200 UT graduate students, mostly from LBJ to serve in key roles during each conference.

In addition to his leadership courses and programs at UT, Prince had a major impact in developing leaders for health care systems and police organizations across the nation. He lectured widely in the U.S. and other countries on leadership and designed and taught a college-level leadership course for police organizations as part of the national response to Rodney King's beating by police officers in Los Angeles. This culminated in teaching a college-credit leadership course with Professor Michael Lauderdale of the Steve Hicks School of Social Work for the Austin Police Department at the request of former Austin Chief of Police Stan Knee. Graduates of the course, which was taught for seven years, include UT Chief of Police David Carter and many senior officers serving in the APD.

The many honors Prince received during his years at LBJ include the John Flanagan Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Psychological Association (2009) and West Point's highest award for its alumni, the Distinguished Graduate Award (2006). He was especially proud of awards given for excellence upon nomination by students, including the Texas Exes Excellence in Teaching Award (2002) and The Eyes of Texas Excellence Award for outstanding contributions to student life (2008).

Howard Prince's impact is endless. Our hearts and minds are with his family and loved ones.

Howard Prince Obituary (1941 - 2021) - Austin, TX - Austin American-Statesman

Dr. Howard Taft Prince II

Austin - Brigadier General (Retired) Dr. Howard Taft Prince II

Passed away Wednesday, May 19, 2021, in Austin, Texas.

Howard T. Prince II was born on March 9, 1941, in Lawton OK, to Howard Taft and Blanche Evelyn Bledsoe Prince. He was a graduate of the Belton High school class of 1958. Dr. Prince graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1962. He received his diploma from President John F. Kennedy, our 35th President, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army and retired as a Brigadier General. Interment will be at The United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, his beloved school. BG Prince was an experienced educator and leader who held positions of increasing responsibility throughout a lifetime of public service. He was an experienced teacher who also has published widely on contemporary leadership topics and was the senior editor of BSL's first leadership textbook. He was active in promoting leadership education and leader development on the national and international levels for many years as a consultant and speaker. In 1996, the Association of Leadership Educators honored BG Prince with its Distinguished Leadership Service Award. On June 1, 2001, he was appointed to be the Director of the Center for Ethical Leadership in the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas at Austin. BG Prince was initially appointed Visiting Professor to the Sid Richardson Chair in Public Affairs on September 1, 1999. He received the Texas Excellence Teaching Award as the outstanding teacher in the LBJ School for AY 2001-2002 on nomination by the student body. He had an independent leadership consulting practice in Austin, Texas since June 1997, serving primarily public sector organizations.

Previously he served as founding dean of the Jepson School of Leadership Studies and Professor of Leadership Studies at the University of Richmond, where he was responsible for the development of the first undergraduate school of leadership studies in the world from October 1, 1990, until June 30, 1996. He then held the George and Virginia Modlin endowed chair as Professor of Leadership Studies until July 31, 1997. While in Richmond BG Prince served as a member of the board of directors of the Urban League of Greater Richmond. He also served as a member of the Honors Program at Virginia Commonwealth University, the Richmond area regional board of the Virginia Institute for Political Leadership, the advisory board of Emergency Shelter, Inc. in Richmond, and the external advisory board of the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership at Mary Baldwin College. BG Prince is also a graduate of Leadership Metro Richmond.

Before going to Richmond, Virginia, BG Prince was the first Professor and Head of the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York from July 1, 1978, through September 30, 1990, where he developed both graduate and undergraduate leadership programs and was instrumental in reshaping leader development throughout the U.S. Army.

BG Prince was a 1962 honor graduate of West Point and also held a Master of Arts degree in International Relations from American University. He studied economics, history, political science, and sociology at the University of Bonn in Germany as an Olmsted Scholar, and earned a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin. As a clinical psychologist, he was a Fellow of the American Psychological Association. He was also a graduate of the U. S. Army War College.

After serving for over twenty-eight years in the United States Army, he was promoted to Brigadier General upon his retirement in 1990 and was presented with the army's highest award for service, the Distinguished Service Medal. His other military awards and decorations include two awards of the Purple Heart, two Bronze Stars for valor, the Bronze Star for service, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Silver Star, Ranger Tab, Senior

Parachutist's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. While on active duty as an infantry officer, he held a variety of troop command and staff positions in the 82nd Airborne and 1st Cavalry divisions before joining the permanent faculty at West Point. BG Prince was currently the president of the 5/7Cavalry Association.

Howard is survived by his wife, Susan, of Austin, Texas, his twin sons, Brian Andrew Prince and Jefferson Todd Prince, of North Carolina. His two sisters, Judith Ann Prince Shine, of Temple, Texas, and Linda Lou Prince Etheredge, of Temple, Texas, numerous nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents and his younger brother Robert Dale Prince of, Allen, Texas.

The Howard T. Prince II Fellowship in Ethical Leadership seeks to endow a legacy of developing future generations of Ethical Leaders. "Leaders are not born, they are made." Howard truly lived the West Point motto, "Duty, Honor, Country." We love you and we will forever miss you...

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