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In Memoriam: George E. Pozzetta

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GEORGE E. POZZETTA
1942-1994

GEORGE E. POZZETTA, professor of history at the University of Florida and editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, died on May 19, 1994, after a brief illness. Born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, George received a bachelor of arts degree and a master's degree from Providence College and a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He taught at the University of Florida for twenty-three years and served as associate chair and graduate coordinator of the Department of History. An internationally renowned authority on immigration history and ethnicity, George authored or edited six books, including *The Immigrant World of Ybor City: Italians and Their Latin Neighbors in Tampa, 1885-1985* (coauthored with Gary R. Mormino), which received the 1987 Theodore Saloutos Prize as the best book in immigration history.

George's contributions to the University of Florida, to his academic discipline, and to the community extended far beyond a remarkable list of publications, awards, and prizes. George was an inspiring and award-winning teacher. Undergraduates, graduate students, and colleagues appreciated his ability to be simultaneously challenging and supportive. But it was George's warmth, generosity, sense of humor, and personal integrity that set him apart. No matter how busy he was or how many professional obligations he shouldered, George was always willing to assist new colleagues and graduate students on their arrival in Gainesville. A generation of faculty members in the Department of History felt immediately at home thanks to the famous Pozzetta hospitality.

Colleagues and friends knew they could always rely on George's judgement. He managed to combine unflinching academic rigor with an uncommon sense of humanity. George's professional associates outside the University of Florida, as well, knew and appreciated these qualities. They, too, recognized George E. Pozzetta as a superb scholar and as a man of extraordinary decency.

Last year George took over as editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* from Samuel Proctor and sought to build on the reputation that the *Quarterly* had achieved under Sam's guidance during

the past thirty years. George encouraged extended review essays for the *Quarterly* and most recently added thematic issues— this number on World War II in Florida being the first of those. His enthusiasm for Florida history and for the *Quarterly* gave us all great optimism about the future of our journal.

The Department of History at the University of Florida has established the George E. Pozzetta Endowment Fund in memory of George, and the fund will be used to assist graduate students in pursuing their research for the Ph.D. Contributions can be made to the University of Florida Foundation, P. O. Box 14425, Gainesville, FL 32604, specifying the George Pozzetta Fund— all such contributions are tax deductible. This is a fitting tribute to the memory of George, who was strongly committed to graduate education and to students at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Jeffrey S. Adler
David R. Colburn