

Richard C. Martin
1938 - 2019

With great sadness we announce the death of Professor Richard C. Martin. He was suffering from liver cancer and passed away suddenly due to complications on Sunday December 8th, 2019 at 8:25p.m. The second eldest of four brothers, Professor Martin was born in 1938 and grew up in Iowa and Nebraska and was a dedicated Eagle Scout whose love of nature was lifelong. An accomplished and esteemed member of his profession, he received his PhD in Near Eastern Languages and Literature from New York University in 1975. Among his books were *Approaches to Islam in Religious Studies*; *Islamic Studies: A History of Religions Approach*; and *Defenders of Reason in Islam: Mu`tazilism from Medieval School to Modern Symbol*. He co-edited (with John Witte) *Sharing the Book: Religious Perspectives on the Rights and Wrongs of Proselytism* and co-edited (with Abbas Barzegar) *Islamism: Contested Perspectives on Political Islam*. With Carl W. Ernst, he co-edited *Rethinking Islamic Studies: From Orientalism to Cosmopolitanism* and was Editor in Chief of the two volume second edition of the *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World* (named to *Library Journal's* "Best Reference Titles of 2016" list). He held an editorship at MESA's *Review of Middle East Studies* (RoMES). He served as chair during his time at Arizona State University and Emory University (becoming an Emeritus Professor of Religion after retirement), and held visiting roles at Stanford University, Virginia Tech, and most recently at University of Washington, Jackson School of International Studies. A world traveler who loved to cook, read books, walk in nature, sip a glass of whisky, and attend the latest art house cinema, his lively presence, gentle consideration, sharp intellect, and witty humor will be wildly missed by his friends, family, and colleagues. He is survived by his wife Holly, daughter Nia, and beloved tabby cat, William of Orange, as well as many extended family members.

