



# Florida State University

## ARF News Special Feature

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## Leo Sandon



Midwesterner by way of New England, joined the FSU faculty and administration as the University Chaplain and an Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, in 1969. A native Kansan who received his BA from Baker University in 1957, he studied for his graduate professional (STM) and PhD degrees at three Boston-Cambridge, MA seminaries: the Boston University School of Theology; the Harvard Divinity School and the Episcopal Divinity School. He received his PhD from the Boston University Graduate School in 1972. From 1963-69 he was pastor of the Union Congregation Church, East Walpole, Mass.

Sandon, an expert on the thought of the American theologian H. Richard Niebuhr, taught the full range of undergraduate and graduate religious studies courses from a lower division "Religion in the United States" to seminars for advanced graduate students. He directed 20 PhD dissertations to completion, including the first doctoral degree awarded by the Department of Religion. For over 26 years he was Director of the Program in American Studies. He published articles in refereed academic journals, chapters in

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books, and co-authored a textbook. He frequently read papers before scholarly societies. Among his research and teaching awards was the designation "University Distinguished Teaching Professor" in 1992. For over 26 years he wrote a weekly column, "Religion in American," appearing in the Tallahassee Democrat. His book "Religion and..." is an anthology of selected columns.

Active in faculty governance affairs, Sandon served on, sometimes chairing, a number of divisional, college, and university standing and special committees, including two presidential search advisory committees. He served two terms as president of the Faculty Senate and as chairman of the Department of Religion.

For 57 years he was married to the late Marvel Lou Sandon, who taught at, among other places, FSU's Developmental Research School. Mrs. Sandon died April 14, 2014. Marvel Lou and the Sandon's two sons and daughter-in-law, Stephen, Philip, and Frances, have five (5) FSU degrees among them. Leo was recently received into the Alumni Association's Circle of Gold and likes to think of himself as an honorary FSU alum.

