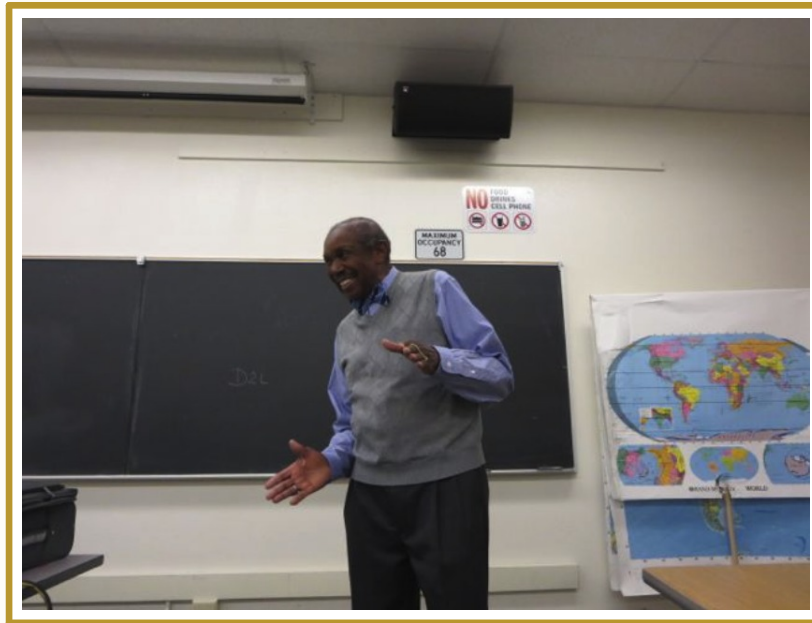


IN LOVING MEMORY

Dr. Henry Hall Jr.

September 15, 1930 – September 11, 2026

Professor of Humanities and Philosophy · Diablo Valley College, 1968–2015



Dr. Hall in the classroom at Diablo Valley College

Dr. Henry Hall Jr., a legendary educator, philosopher, and devoted veteran, passed away peacefully on September 11, 2026, at 11:02 PM, just four days shy of his 96th birthday. He took his last breath surrounded by the absolute love of his family after a valiant, seven-year battle with dementia and metastatic prostate cancer.

Dr. Hall's life was defined by an enduring connection to Diablo Valley College (DVC), where his journey transformed from a young veteran finding his path into a titan of the campus community. After completing his military service, he stepped onto the campus in 1953 (then East Contra Costa Junior College) as a student—an experience he always credited as the foundation for his lifelong intellectual pursuits. He went on to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees from San Francisco State University, ultimately achieving his Ph.D. in higher education from UC Berkeley. In 1968, he returned home to DVC, officially joining the faculty to teach the subjects he loved most.

For 47 brilliant years, Dr. Hall served as a Professor of Humanities and Philosophy, retiring in 2015. Known for his signature bow ties, sharp humor, and unwavering passion, he brought the works of Plato, Aristotle, and Socrates to life. A philosopher at heart, he frequently shared his guiding convictions with his classes, often reminding them that “there is no justice amongst unequals.” He famously challenged decades of students to never accept easy answers and to always “think for themselves.” To thousands of alumni, he was a true “DVC legend” who lectured out of pure joy and transformed lives through education.

“There is no justice amongst unequals.”

— Dr. Henry Hall Jr.

Above all his academic accomplishments, Henry was a deeply devoted family man. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 42 years, Hatsuko Nishihira Hall, who passed away in 1994, and his cherished granddaughter, Ashley Nicole Hall, who was born January 3, 1989, and passed away on April 17, 2020, at the age of 31.

His legacy of profound intellect, integrity, and warmth will be carried forward by his family. He is survived by his only surviving daughter, Susan Hall Wentworth, and his son-in-law, Don Edward Wentworth, who walked alongside him through his final years and held his head in his last moments. He also leaves behind his cherished grandson, Kai Hall Nitto, in whom his spark of curiosity and wisdom lives on. His memory will endure forever in the hearts of his family, his colleagues, and the generations of students he inspired to see the world a little more clearly.

Teacher · Philosopher · Veteran · Family Man