In May, Dean Lee Bollinger said of Palmer, "His scholarship on restitution had a profound significance on the law. His unusual combination of gentleness and gruffness left an impression on countless students."

Professor Emeritus Olin Browder remembers Palmer for both his scholarship and his teaching: "George Palmer was one of the really great figures in American legal scholarship during this century. His major work, The Law of Restitution, ranks with the monumental works of this century by Willston and Wigmore. He also was acknowledged to be a fine classical teacher."

Professor Thomas Kauper, who knew Palmer all his life and was among his students, observed, "George was a very warm, witty, person, although I think it's fair to say in class he could frighten students somewhat." Students referred to his teaching style as being "Palmerized" — a process of being subjected to the pain of disciplined thought and the relentless pursuit of meaning. Still, Kauper says, "Most of the students I knew thought of him as a really great teacher and one who was very interested in his students. Long after his retirement, he remained very interested in the Law School. He was a very loyal Michigan man."

His wife of 56 years, Ruth, preceded him in death in 1991. His two brothers and a sister also preceded him in death. He is survived by his son, Steven Palmer of Grand Rapids; two daughters, Julie Palmer Gzella of San Mateo, California and Katherine Ann Palmer of Lansing; six grandsons, Scott, David, Ken, Jim, Jon, and Chris; one great-granddaughter, Katie; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Throughout his long career at Michigan, first as a student and later as a faculty member, Palmer's devotion to the law school was intense. Accordingly, his family has requested that memorial contributions in his name be directed to the Law School's scholarship fund, care of Development and Alumni Relations, 721 S. State, Ann Arbor, Mich., 48104-3071.