



George H. Keller

September 9, 1931 - October 12, 2018

George Keller, beloved husband, father, friend and community volunteer, passed away after a short but valiant health battle with family by his side on October 12, 2018.

George was born on September 9, 1931 to George and Eva Keller, in Hartford, Connecticut. Both of George's parents were originally from Copenhagen, Denmark. George remained proud of his Danish heritage maintaining close ties with extended family throughout life and was also active in a Danish fraternal organization in the United States for over 65 years. George and his parents lived in Wethersfield, Connecticut and it was there while in elementary school, that George met his wife Suzanne Bray. George attended schools in Connecticut, Utah, and California prior to receiving a PhD in Oceanography from the University of Illinois.

George's career path included a period of time with a civilian position with the Office of Naval Research. George moved his family to Miami, Florida, where he headed up a research lab at NOAA.

George continued his career with a move to Corvallis in 1975 to join the faculty of the College of Oceanography at Oregon State University. George became Vice Provost of Research and International Programs. George managed a rapid expansion of research funding for the university during his tenure. He retired from OSU in 1996.

Throughout his life, George had a great appreciation for the natural world and

developed a deep love of Oregon for its natural beauty and its people. A world traveler, George cherished most time spent at the family cabin on Crescent Lake.

George is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Suzanne Keller, and his two children—Mark Keller of Corvallis and Lauri Keller of San Diego CA.

A Memorial Service will be held at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, October 30 at Grace Lutheran Church in Corvallis. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in George's name to the Benton Community Foundation. (www.bcfjives.org).

Please share your thoughts and memories for the family at www.demossturda.com

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **30**. 3:00 PM (PT)

Grace Lutheran Church
435 NW 21st St
Corvallis, OR 97330

Tribute Wall

MC

“ George,

I miss you, dear friend! I miss your wisdom, advice and friendship. The kids are grown so I can finally take your advice to chase my dreams. I'm headed to South Korea soon. I wish we could visit about it and all your travels. In any case, when you look down, I hope you feel how loved you are and that you are still missed.

Mary Ann

Mary Ann Christian - August 04, 2024 at 05:26 PM

ML

“ We recently learned of the passing of my mentor and dear friend Dr. George Keller with heavy saddened hearts. My wife Ping and I were so sad to find the right words to express our sorrows. We may find consolation that George had a happy family, great career and significant contribution to the research reputation at OSU and pioneering the China-US marine science exchange and collaboration.

George was one of the most influential persons who had great impact on my life and career. I met George in summer of 1982 in Qingdao during one of his trips to China. It was through him, I learned about OSU and came to Corvallis for my advanced degrees in marine geology. He served as my mentor and co-advisor during my master's and PhD studies at OSU. He continued to provide selfless support, advice and guidance to me in the last 28 years even after I graduated from and left OSU. Without George, my life and career and my family's life will be totally different.

George's passing brought back so many memories of both of him and his beloved wife of 63 years, Sue Keller. I remember that it was Sue who picked me up from the Airport in Eugene on my arrival in the US in September 1983. Sue and George graciously hosted me in the first few days after my arrival before I found my own apartment. I will never forget that you and Sue threw my first birthday dinner away from home in China. George and Sue also welcomed Ping and our daughter Debbie with warmth and open arms. We fondly remember the many holiday dinners, summer barbecues at your lovely home, and the wonderful times we spent together in your cottage in the mountains. We are forever grateful to George and Sue and will always have a special place in our hearts to remember George's warmth, kindness and friendship.

During this difficult time, we send our deepest, heartfelt condolences to our beloved "American Mom" Sue and we will keep you and Mark and Laurie in our thoughts and prayers. We wish we could be there with you to console and care for you. Please do take

care yourself and be safe and well.

With love and saddened hearts,

Ping and Michael

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Michael Li - July 12, 2020 at 12:10 PM

BD

“ *All this word here about my cousin George are beautiful, and I know they are true. I have know George from I was born i 1942 (I am Danish), I had know his parents Eva and Georg (aunt and uncle), and Sue too. They had always been very nice to visit Denmark and the big family here many times. We have had many mails together in many years. Also I miss him. Hope the best for Sue and the children Mark & Lauri. From Bent Deber in Denmark.*

Bent Deber - October 07, 2019 at 07:57 AM

TP

“ *George worked under my father Clifford V.Smith Jr when he was Vice President of Administration at OSU from 1978-1981. I had the pleasure of working for George when I was 16 until I graduated from High School. He was a very lovely man. My father and I are so sorry for your loss. We just saw this in the Oregon Stater.*

Tricia Smith Pausz - April 12, 2019 at 08:54 PM

AT

“ George, when he led the OSU research office, was instrumental in helping us get the resources to build our research programs at OSU many years ago. And in the 30 years since, he never ceased to be curious about our research adventures. He had the gift of making you feel that you mattered. In recent years, since he also had an office on the 5th floor Weniger, we'd occasionally meet by chance in the copy room and chat. We were shocked to hear of his passing because it seems like our last chance meeting was only a few weeks ago, and he was the vibrant, enthusiastic and energetic George we'd known for all these years.

Anne Tréhu and John Nabelek

anne trehu - October 30, 2018 at 12:06 AM

KJ

“ Condolences to the family. I only knew George briefly. I am a Dane and about 2 years ago I saw a car with a DK sign on by Grocery Outlet, went over and that was George, we had a nice chat and exchanged business cards. We e-mailed a few times and that was it.



Kirsten Jordan

KIRSTEN Jordan - October 23, 2018 at 01:19 PM

RS

“ George was dean of oceanography when I was appointed assistant professor in 1977. I came to know him over 40 years since as an encouraging mentor and friend. He was a true gentleman.

Roland de Szoeki - October 22, 2018 at 07:11 PM

JP

“ Just meeting George was a pleasure. He loved Sue, Mark & Lauri with everything he had in his. Condolences to the family

Jenelle Pinkston - October 20, 2018 at 09:04 PM

SC

“ George was my friend, and an anonymous friend to many Albanian students. I don't recall how he learned of the Albanian Alps Institute, but he became interested and took a proposal to his Rotary Club to get a grant for our libraries. This was unsuccessful, but not because George didn't put a lot of effort into it. He then became a major donor, believing that education for Albanian mountain village kids was a worthwhile investment. He would stop by my office and chat, always upbeat, always with interesting things to say. We will all miss him.

Steve Cook
President Albanian Alps Institute

Steve Cook - October 20, 2018 at 01:40 PM

DM

“ We were saddened to learn of George's passing and offer our condolences to Sue, Mark, and Lori. Professionally, George was a beloved leader and a true friend of faculty. Personally, he was kind, understanding, and always willing to listen. He was worldly, fun, and great company on any occasion. He will be dearly missed.
David and Machteld Mok

David and Machteld Mok - October 19, 2018 at 01:31 PM

TD

“ George was a wonderful colleague and role model. I well remember his admonition to not lose a personal involvement in research as I was embarking on serving as department chair. He knew how much time academic and personnel issues take up, tending to relegate discussion about research to "time left over." While we certainly need to teach to the best of our abilities, OSU's reputation is built by research, and that's also a big part of our contribution to the state. Thanks, George! Theo Dreher, Department of Microbiology

Theo Dreher - October 19, 2018 at 10:46 AM

DH

“ George was the best. He had vision, caring, intelligence, strength, toughness, courage, humor ... everything you'd want in an administrator and a friend. I only wish I had had a chance to tell him good-bye. Dianne Walta Hart

dianne walta hart - October 18, 2018 at 10:48 PM

RC

“ Please accept my deepest condolences. George was such a force of nature. I will sorely miss that mirthful smile as well as his invariably penetrating insights. Richard Clinton

Richard L. Clinton - October 17, 2018 at 05:22 PM