



Joe J. Lehman

July 1, 1921 - April 23, 2013

Dr. Joe J. Lehman, 91 years old, died on April 23, 2013. He was born on July 1, 1921, in Versailles pronounced "ver-sales", MO to Joseph A. and Bertha G. Lehman. He earned a B.S. degree in Chemistry from Bethel College in N. Newton, KS. He met Eleanor at Bethel; they were married at the campus chapel in May 1943. Joe went on to earn M.S. 1947 and Ph.D 1949 degrees in Organic Chemistry at Washington State University in Pullman. He was a member of the Organic Chemistry faculty at Colorado State University from 1949 until his retirement 41 years later in 1991 as Emeritus Professor. Joe joined the Navy Reserve in 1943 and served in active duty as a line officer on the USS Caelum in the Pacific theater during World War II; as a medical officer at the Naval Medical Research Laboratory at Camp Lejeune, NC during the Korean War; and as a professor at the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD in 1961. He retired from military service with the rank of Captain in 1981. Joe is survived by Eleanor, his wife and best friend of 70 years; sons, Stanwood and Scott; daughters, Barbara Brady and Lizabeth Cannon; nine grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren. Joe poured his love of life through many vessels, including students, colleagues, neighbors, and most dearly his family. The family is observing private remembrances of his love, faith, kindness, honesty, joy of life, keen mind, and wit. No formal ceremony is planned. In lieu of flowers, please donate to your favorite charity.

Comments



“ To Joe's family Joe and my dad taught together in the chemistry department. My dad, Bob Thompson, died in 1966. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Kacy Thompson - May 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ I've always had fond memories of Dr. Lehman from my time in a class on Stoichiometry. He was at ease with teaching, as he seemed to be with life. I enjoyed his characteristic smile and gait, both easily noted from a distance. A long and fulfilled life of service to others.

Nicolas Berrong - May 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Lehman family, I had professor Lehman as a professor in 1990, I think. As challenging as that class was, I'll never forget how funny he was with his "mandatory stretch breaks, because I'm old". I was very worried about my grade and came to see him at the end of the semester. He looked at the grade book, then at me. He asked what I wanted to be. A physical therapist I said. He looked again at the book and then at me intently with a grin. How about a C? I knew he was being very generous, and that was not what I had earned. I was astounded, and thanked him very much! He saw me as a person, not as a grade and I felt he didn't want a bad grade to stand in my way. Such a fond memory of him I have. Then, as luck would have it, I ended up working at Golden Peaks in 2004 for 5 years as a physical therapist assistant.

Chris Forseth - May 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Oops! I exceeded 1000 characters I recognized him right away. He was always busy outside raking, shoveling snow, breaking up ice... I was so impressed with his level of activity at his age. I walked over to say hi and I recanted my grade story to him, thanking him whole heartedly once again. I'd always yell "Hi professor!" when I'd see him outside as he had that bright face and funny comments at times. What a great sense of humor he had and a wonderful example of a human being. I'm blessed to have known him.

Chris Forseth - May 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Joe got me oriented in the Department of Chemistry in late June 1967 and was always ready with help or a joke. I hope someone got a picture of him with the big benzene ring model that he used in class on his head. Joe was a great teacher who gave students what they deserved for their high tuition.

Frank Stermitz - May 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ To the Lehman Family My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Your house was like a second home for me I will never forget the kindness and happiness that I felt growing up next to you. Joe always had a lesson or thought that would help as we grew older. He will be missed.

Sharon Jensen Evig - May 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers reach out to Eleanor and her family in this time of remembrance of Joe. We are deeply humbled by knowing this fine man for many years and his love and service not only to his own family but to our country as a naval vet, educator and citizen. We will miss him. God bless his family.

Edith Brady and Family - May 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Sharon called us with the sad news of Joe's passing. We will remember Joe's great sense of humor and his wonderful smile. We are so sorry for your loss.

Barbara and Dan Evig - May 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Eleanor, Stan, Scott, Barb, Liz: What a wonderful man, husband, father and father in law Joe has been all these years. We appreciate how much he has loved Jesus with his quiet spirit. Love, Fred

Fred Cannon - May 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Stan and families--I remember you and your Dad fondly as great gentlemen. In his memory, we have provided ten Gideon-placed Bibles. God bless all of you always.
Doug and Dorothy Benton

Doug Benton - May 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ I have great respect and warm thoughts for Joe for my entire time at CSU since 1975. He was always a good colleague and a friend I could count on for good advice, interesting stories, and support for the new growth of the department. Joe was a major force for the start of the department's expansion. My best wishes to his family and friends.

Elliot Bernstein - May 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM