



William Mason Gray

October 9, 1929 - April 16, 2016

DEATH OF CSU PROFESSOR AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENTIST SPECIALIZING IN HURRICANES AND CLIMATE

William Mason Gray (Bill) passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on April 16, 2016 at the age of 86. He had remained active in his hurricane and climate change research up until the time of his death from heart and renal failure. He was well known for his seasonal Atlantic Basin Hurricane forecasts and his strong disagreement with the scientific basis of the Anthropogenic Global Warming hypothesis.

Bill was born in Detroit, Michigan on the 9th of October, 1929. He was the eldest son of Ulysses S. Gray and Beatrice Mason Gray. The family moved to Washington D. C. in 1939 where Bill grew up in the northwest section of the district. He graduated from Wilson High School and George Washington University (1952) and was very active in high-school football and baseball. A knee injury at 21 prevented a desired career in professional baseball.

Bill received a 2nd Lt. Commission in the Air Force in 1953 and served as a weather forecast officer for four years, the majority of which was overseas (Azores, England). He remained active in the Air Force Reserves after joining CSU as a weather officer until 1974 when he retired as a Lt. Col. After his active Air Force duty in 1957, he obtained an MS (Meteorology) and Ph.D.

(Geophysical Sciences) from the University of Chicago. He then joined the newly-formed Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University in 1961.

Bill married Nancy Price (from Oshkosh, Wis.) on the 1st of October, 1954. They had four children, Sarah, Anne (deceased), Janet, and Robert. Nancy Gray was very active for many years in Fort Collins community affairs and politics (including serving as Mayor of Fort Collins in 1980-'81) before her death in 2001.

Bill was a faculty member at Colorado State University from 1961 through his formal retirement in 2005. But after retirement, he continued his hurricane and climate research as a Professor Emeritus until his recent passing. Gray initiated seasonal hurricane forecasts for which he became well known with extensive media coverage in the 1980's and 90's. Gray graduated 70 masters and Ph.D. students. Many of his ex-graduate students have become very prominent leaders in the field of tropical meteorology today. His last graduate student, Phil Klotzbach has very successfully continued these seasonal forecasts since 2006. He worked many years with the UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO). He initiated and organized the first WMO International Workshop on Tropical Cyclones in Bangkok in 1985. He travelled the world and maintained collaborations with prominent researchers in the field of tropical meteorology throughout his career. To recognize his leadership and distinguished service in the field of tropical meteorology, he received many professional awards, including the first "Robert and Joanne Simpson Award" (2014).

Gray had strong disagreement with the science behind the human-induced global warming hypothesis (AGW) and devoted the major portion of his recent years to research.

Gray is survived by his two daughters, Sarah (of San Diego) and Janet (of Fort Collins) and his son, Robert and two grandsons, Mason and Liam (of San Diego).

A Memorial Service for Dr. Bill Gray will be held on May 22, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at the Lory Student Center, North Ballroom at CSU, 500 University Ave. Reception to follow in the Cherokee Ballroom/University Club.

Donations to honor Dr. Gray's memory can be made to the "William M. Gray Tropical Meteorology Memorial Fund" which will support graduate studies and research in tropical meteorology in the Department of Atmospheric Science at CSU. To donate to the fund, please to go <https://advancing.colostate.edu/DRB/ILLGRAY>. Alternatively, you can send a check make out to:

CSU Foundation
410 University Services Center
Fort Collins CO 80523-9100

In the memo line reference "72925" or "William M. Gray Tropical Meteorology Memorial".

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 22. 11:00 AM (MT)

Lory Student Center
500 University Ave
Fort Collins, CO

Tribute Wall

JC

“ *Jim Cantore purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William Mason Gray.*



Jim Cantore - May 20, 2016 at 02:06 PM

KW

“ *Our condolences to you all, although we only know Janet. We have known and been friends with both of your parents for many years, first with Nancy through the League of Women Voters, then an investment club which morphed into a gourmet club. Of course he was famous for his hurricane predictions, and then for his scholarly opinion about the human causes of global warming. I am sorry he did not live to see his opinion found to be true, as I think it probably will be. You were fortunate to have had such smart and interesting parents, both of whom contributed so much to the community. Our thoughts are with you.*

Best Wishes, Kathy and Dale Winder

Kathleen Winder - May 19, 2016 at 09:46 PM

AI

“ *Alex Garcia and Tim Smith, USI Inc. purchased the Secret Garden Basket for the family of William Mason Gray.*



Alex Garcia and Tim Smith, USI Inc. - May 19, 2016 at 12:30 AM

CL

“ Cheng-shang, Li-chin, Grace and Olivia Lee purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of William Mason Gray.



Cheng-shang, Li-chin, Grace and Olivia Lee - May 18, 2016 at 02:42 AM

ML

“ I had the good fortune to be warm up speaker for Bill at a Colorado policymaker briefing in April 2007. Being a non-scientist, I was a bit nervous sharing the podium with him. Bill however was enthusiastic about my presentation, a critique of *An Inconvenient Truth*, and encouraged me to keep fighting the good fight. We would exchange greetings at Heartland conferences in the ensuing years. He had the gift of making a relatively recent acquaintance feel like an old friend. I am honored to count myself among the many, many people who will remember Bill with affection and admiration. -- Marlo Lewis

Marlo Lewis - April 25, 2016 at 10:58 AM

KT

“ Sarah and Gray family - I have many wonderful memories of your dad and mom. I was so lucky to see him and Janet at the Cemetary Crawl in Fort Collins last fall.

*Kacy Thompson
Lund, Sweden*

Kacy Thompson - April 22, 2016 at 09:53 AM