



Dr. Leonard Kent Thomas

January 25, 1940 - May 6, 2020

Dr. Leonard Kent Thomas was born in Miami, OK on Jan 25, 1940 to Leonard and Geneva Thomas. He is survived by his wife, Kayleen (Studebaker), daughter, Jana Thomas-Roach and husband, Michael (Roach), and granddaughters Caitie and Megan who live in Bay Village, OH. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews in Missouri and Oklahoma. His son Christopher Kent Thomas, sister, Joanne Kaylor, and parents, Leonard and Geneva Thomas, preceded him in death.

Kent attended Miami Public Schools and NEO Junior College where he was honored as an Outstanding Alumni in 1999. Kent received a degree in Chemical Engineering at the University of Oklahoma. He married Kayleen (Studebaker) after his junior year at OU. They were high school sweethearts and were happily married for almost 59 years. Upon graduation from OU, Kent was offered a fellowship to the University of Michigan where earned his PhD in Chemical Engineering. He was a good listener and enjoyed teaching others. He even taught an algebra class to nurses through OSU. Most of all, he loved helping solve problems. No problem was too big with his "we can do it" attitude.

In 1966, Kent began his career with Phillips 66 as a Reservoir Engineering Analyst in the computing department in Bartlesville. In 1971, Kent moved with his family to Caracas, Venezuela for 15 months for a work assignment with Phillips.

Kent enjoyed playing, watching and coaching sports. He participated in the Phillips baseball & volleyball leagues. He coached the First United Methodist Church's Y Basketball and his son's Overlees Little League Baseball team. They won the "A Minor" City Championship in 1979. He attended Boy Scout campouts and summer camps with his son's troop. He attended countless Phillips swim meets and cheered for his children and the team.

The outdoors was always beckoning Kent...hunting, fishing and caring for his acreage. He took his family on many trips that involved camping and nature. Some trips were related to his work and others were planned based on the family's desires. He loved exploring the USA, especially Colorado, California, and Hawaii. His favorite places to visit outside of the US were Canada, Norway and England.

Kent was promoted to Manager of Engineering Sciences with responsibilities for the development of reservoir simulation software, for use within the company and application

to major field projects such as Ekofisk in the North Sea and consultation to field engineers. He has authored or co-authored over 50 technical papers throughout his career and has served on 45+ SPE committees, chairing many of them. With the guidance of his mentor, Dr. Donald Katz, who helped set up the Research Development Lab at Phillips in Bartlesville. Dr. Katz became a world-renowned engineer, receiving the National Medal of Science by President Ronald Reagan.

Kent received the 1993 SPE Reservoir Engineering Award in recognition of major contributions to reservoir simulation technology. He served as a 1995-1996 Distinguished Lecturer where he traveled to many countries to speak. He was elected to SPE Distinguished Member status in 1995. Kent received the prestigious Robert Earl McConnell Award from AIME in 2002. This award recognizes beneficial service to mankind by engineers through significant contributions that tend to advance the nation's standard of living or replenish its natural resources.

After retirement, Kent was a contract employee for Conoco Phillips. In 2006 he received a ConocoPhillips Technology Innovation Award in Houston for a lifetime of achievement for excellence in reservoir engineering, as demonstrated by his countless awards, recognition and professional contributions, including numerous reservoir engineering simulators and their application in the field.

In 2012, Kent received another major recognition, the SPE and AIME Honorary Member Award. "For his brilliant 40- year career encompassing the depth and combination of physical concepts and sound mathematical modeling in all his work and publications, for his contributions and concepts significantly advancing reservoir simulation, and for his work on reservoir simulation of fractured reservoirs, the most important piece of work on dual-porosity modeling."

Then in 2016, Kent was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) in Washington, DC. NAE recognizes the superior achievements of engineers and members are elected by peers. This is one of the highest honors in US Engineering. Kent's family attended the ceremony where he proudly honored them in his acceptance speech.

Kent's genuine kindness and generosity were well known by all he met. He was the most loving and caring husband, father and friend that anyone could ask for. He truly walked in the footsteps of Jesus, always putting others first. We have been blessed. Heaven has received a brilliant, kind, gentle, wonderful man.

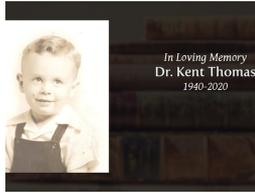
In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to Bartlesville First Church 4715 SE Price Rd., Bartlesville, OK 74006 or to Bartlesville Community Foundation (Thomas Family Education Fund) 208 E 4th St., Bartlesville, OK 74003. A viewing and slideshow will be held at Stumpff Funeral Home in Bartlesville on Sunday, May 17 from 3-5. A private family graveside service will be held at G.A.R. Cemetery in Miami and a public memorial church service will be held at a later date. Friends who wish may sign the online guest book and leave condolences at www.stumpff.org.

A private graveside will be held Tuesday, May 19th, 2020. A memorial service will be held at a later date at the Bartlesville First Church.

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory - May 17 at 02:12 PM



“ Kaylee, Rod. and I just heard of Kent's passing...my eyes are flowing with tears of sorrow...just watched that precious video....we remember those great years at high school and NEO...what fun years we had...please know we are praying for you and your family...love to you.....ps we go back to Will Rogers years remember....lol

Frances Trask - May 30 at 12:52 PM



“ Great friend, work mate and fisherman. Simply the best!

Wayne Allen

Wayne Allen - May 22 at 02:20 PM



“ Please accept the condolences of us in the ConocoPhillips Reservoir Engineering community who knew Kent. We are indebted to him and continue to benefit from his many contributions to our company and industry. He had a genuine capability to relate to the practicing engineer and to provide solutions that underpinned the technical work behind many material decisions. His legacy lives on in ConocoPhillips and we celebrate him as both a brilliant and admired colleague.

Steve Rigatos - May 21 at 02:57 PM



“ I will always remember Kent & Kayleen. When they went to U of M, they would sometimes come this way to see the rest of the family. When I got married, they were here and helped decorate the hall and enjoy the reception. As the years went by, they also visited the family back here. The last time I saw them was at a small reunion that was held at a park near us. I really miss them.

RoseMarie Wing



RoseMarie Wing - May 19 at 02:42 PM



“ Fabulous video tribute. Thank you!

allyn risley - May 18 at 11:53 PM



“ Kent, Mike Fetkovich and Don Ebbs were my reservoir engineering heroes. We've lost another great coworker who underpinned the upstream success of Phillips Petroleum. What a great life he lived at home, at work and in service to his fellow man!

Allyn Risley - May 18 at 06:31 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Flowers



Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory - May 16 at 03:06 PM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Kent during his last decade in ConocoPhillips. He always had time for people, and helped us out of a hole many a time. He was a true giant in his domain! My condolences to Kent's family.

Sean Pedersen - May 14 at 01:48 AM



“ Kayleen and Jana, We were saddened to hear of Kent's passing. I truly enjoyed working with him and programming for him in the old EO&A Reservoir Engineering group which included Wayne Allen and Mike Fetkovich. Kent was a brilliant engineer, but was always nice and humble, never bragging. I know he loved to fish and we enjoyed fishing on your pond. May he rest in peace. Love, Gary and Carolyn Reheis



Gary and Carolyn Reheis - May 13 at 07:57 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss of Kent, Kayleen. His was a life well lived. May your many memories provide you with strength in your healing after 49 years of marriage. God bless.

Margaret (Miller) Baker

Margaret Baker - May 13 at 04:55 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss Kayleen. I have such good memories of both you and Kent. What a wonderful blessed life that you both shared. Many people miss out. It was a privilege to have known Kent in high school and at jr college. May God comfort you and your family.

Shirley Tiger - May 13 at 02:07 PM



“ Ray always considered Kent as a good friend. Sad that we lost touch for so many years. Our condolences Kayleen to you and the rest of the family.

Pat Baldrige - May 13 at 11:09 AM



“ Dear Kayleen, I am so sorry to hear of Kent's passing. He was certainly a talented man and a blessing to our class of '58. You and he worked so well together and I enjoyed so much working with you both on the 50th Reunion of MHS. God bless you as you travel this road. May our Lord give you peace. Love, Shirley Coble-Spille

Shirley Spille - May 12 at 04:56 PM



“ Kent was always a very special guy to our family. My God’s arms enfold you Kayleen along with your family!!

Patty DeMier - May 12 at 10:30 PM



“ Dear Kayleen, Praying for you an family. May the Lord's loving promises comfort you and give you strength as you walk through this difficult time. You were an amazing couple and loved by all of your class mates .He will be missed by all!!

Joyce Evans Trotnic

Joyce Trotnic - May 13 at 05:01 PM



“ Kayleen, having just experienced the loss of my own husband, I know this is such a sad, somber time for you. None of it seems real when it happens and as time passes I hope you will reach out to the many friends who will there for you. I remember you and Kent so well at MHS. You guys were one of the cutest couples, always together and smiling. He was a really nice and special; guy. Prayers for you Kayleen to help you navigate through this loss. May God give you and your Daughter the peace and strength to get through these days.

Jane Boyles Owen

Jane Owen - May 14 at 02:06 PM



“ Kayleen and Jana-It has been a long time, but I still remember your first recruiting visit to Bartlesville when Mother fixed dinner, probably Roast Beast, and I first met you and Kent and Chris Kent. I have remembered you all fondly over the years and was so sad to head of Kent's passing. I also remember babysitting Chris Kent and Jana Kay-so many fond memories! My greatest sympathies to you and Jana for your loss of Kent. May the Lord comfort you.

Janet Lynn Giles Drake

Janet Giles Drake - May 18 at 03:22 PM



“ My heart is with you all. I loved Kent and he wa such a blessing to our family. He has helped me in so many ways, from tutoring a kid to finances. But most of all a kind and gentle man to my family. He will be deeply missed. Love to you all!

Marianna Hall - May 12 at 01:54 PM