



William James Trepka

April 17, 1933 - December 11, 2015

Dr. William James (Bill) Trepka of Bartlesville died Friday, December 11, 2015 after a brief illness.

William (Bill) James Trepka was born April 17, 1933 in Crete, Nebraska to William and Melva Roberta (Kubicek) Trepka. He received his elementary education at a rural school near Crete and graduated valedictorian with the Crete High School class of 1951. He attended Doane Collage, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1955, majoring in Chemistry with minors in mathematics and secondary education. Bill was united in marriage with Verna Lee Slepicka on June 1, 1955 in Crete, Nebraska.

In 1960, Dr. Trepka received his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from Iowa State University and joined Phillips Petroleum Company Research Center as a Research Chemist. He took early retirement in 1993 after thirty-three years of service. In his career, he was inventor or co-inventor for 50+ U.S. Patents, authored or co-authored thirteen technical articles, and contributed a chapter to a technical book.

Bill was a 50+ year member of the American Chemical Society; a lifetime member (43 years) of the Bartlesville Kiwanis Club, where he served as various roles, including lieutenant governor; and a 55 year member of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church where he served as an Elder on Session, taught Sunday school, and assisted with the NOAH retiree program. Bill served as assistant Scout Master to Troop 104 and was active in many athletic activities.

William J. Trepka was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Verna Lee (Slepicka) Trepka; his parents; his eldest son William David of Bartlesville, OK; and brother Robert Dale Trepka of Woodbury, MN. Survivors include daughter-in-law Sandra (Slay) Trepka of Bartlesville; daughter Janet Lee (Trepka) and David Marling of Dahlonoga, GA; son Lt. Colonel John Charles and Katsuyo (Furukawa) Trepka of Woodbridge, VA; and grandchildren Kelsey Trepka, Jessica (Trepka) Hoyt and David J. Hoyt, Kyoka Trepka, Kazuhide Trepka, Jackson Marling, Cooper Marling, and Andersen Lee Marling.

Celebration of Life services will be held 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 23, 2016, at Good Shepherd Church in Bartlesville with Rev. Dale P. Scott officiating. Services are under the direction of Carter Davis and the Davis Family Funeral Home. In Lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church Foundation or the Doane College Foundation. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared with Bill's family at www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com.

Tribute Wall

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“ Your mother and father were good friends of mine. They contributed so much to Bartlesville and are greatly missed. They were so proud of their children, their in-laws and their grandchildren. Now they are together. My condolences to all of you. Sue Lacey.

Susan Lacey - December 19, 2015 at 03:30 PM

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Bill and I, plus a few other grad students, shared an office at Iowa State. He was a most dedicated student and a good guy. Like him, I was from a small school, and may have needed to sprint a little to catch up with fellows from larger schools.

Keith Nichols - November 22, 2024 at 02:04 PM