MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS

Chuck Evans

Charles Frederick “Fred” Foreman

Norman L. Jacobson

Graeme Quick

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Victor Tamashunas

Mary Ann Tétreault

Robert (Bob) Irving Wessel

Iowa State University Faculty Senate
December 10, 2015
It is with great sadness that we announce the death of our father, Chuck Evans, who passed away peacefully after a brief stay at West Georgia Hospice in LaGrange, Georgia on July 31, 2015 at the age of 75. He was a loving father, grandfather, friend and teacher. We will greatly miss his companionship, perpetual curiosity and unique sense of humor.

Chuck Evans was an artist whose works, technical innovations, writings and teaching have made lasting contributions to metalsmithing and the American Arts. He was introduced to metals through his friend David Pimentel and learned design and technique while studying under Hans Christensen and Albert Paley at the School of American Craftsmen, Rochester Institute of Technology, 1969-1972.

After earning his MFA, he taught at Bowling Green State University for six years before moving to Iowa in 1978 to open the metals program for Iowa State University’s College of Design, where he was Professor of Jewelry and Metals from 1978 through 2001. His artwork spanned 30+ years and has been shown in 200+ exhibitions in the U.S. and abroad. He authored the textbook Jewelry; Contemporary Design and Technique, 1983, Davis Publications and contributed with great detail and unflinching candor to many books and professional publications over the course of his life.

In 1987 Chuck was the first artist to receive the Burlington Northern Faculty Achievement Award for Research and Scholarship by Iowa State University, based on his overall career work. In 1990 he was the first artist invited by the Prefectural Government of Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan to work with that regions jewelry and textiles industry.

A true purist, Chuck held individual expression above all and shunned labels with great vigor. Some of the noted artists with whom he interacted included Heikki Seppa, Philip Fike, John Marshall, Fred Fenster, Ronald Pearson, Richard Thomas, Eleanor Moty, Alma Eikerman, Dominick Labino, Wendell Castle, Peter Voulkos, Frans Wildenhain and Philip Morton.

Serving nearly 10 years in the Navy from 1957-1967 after dropping out of high school, Chuck went through college in part supported by the G.I. Bill. Later in life, he reconnected with many of his shipmates from aboard the U.S.S. Mills and the U.S.S. Greenlet ASR-10 and derived a lot of pleasure from those rekindled friendships. He also dug deep into genealogy to better understand his Smith Island, Maryland ancestry, and he built a 21’ wooden boat to carry on his family’s boat building and fishing heritage.

Though Chuck had many loves besides his family, his love of teaching and the connection he had with his students brought him great joy. We are full of gratitude that he was touched by so many students who are teaching today and share some part of him with future generations.

Following our father’s wishes, he will be interned at sea by the U.S. Navy with full honors. A private gathering to remember him and his work is being planned for family and friends. In lieu of flowers, we request that donations be made to Penland School of Crafts whose mission is to support individual and artistic growth through craft.

Chuck Evans is survived by his children, Sherrill Evans (Lary) Mahoney, of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida; his son, Eric (Jennifer) Evans of Niskayuna, NY; his sisters, Sherrill (Cecil) Wilkins of Cary, NC and Sallie (RJ) Warren of Garner, NC; and three grandchildren, Sarah, Jack and Owen. Sarah will begin her college studies at Rochester Institute of Technology this fall.
Charles Frederick "Fred" Foreman was born on November 9, 1920. He died peacefully in his sleep at age 94 on July 22, 2015. He was preceded in death by his parents and an infant daughter. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Melba (Zimmerman) Foreman, sons, John (Sandy), Mike (Dawn), Lance (Karen), grandchildren Dawn Foreman (Peter Schuyler), Aimee Foreman (Kevin Vosen), KC Foreman, Kelli (Nick) Martin, Kathleen (Brad) Anderson, Jim Foreman, Chad Morin, Steven Morin, great grandchildren Bennett Vosen, Mila Vosen, Olivia Schuyler, Mason Martin, and Parker Martin. He is also survived by his sister Doyn (Foreman) Wiler and niece Andrea (Wiler) Ham.

Fred, as he preferred to be called, was born on a small farm near Blue Rapids, Kansas, where he worked with his parents, Homer and Geraldine (Estes) Foreman, and his younger sister Doyn through the Great Depression. He enlisted in the Army after World War II broke out where he rose through the ranks to be an officer. He participated in the invasion of the Philippines. He continued in the U. S. Army Reserves until he retired with the rank of Lt. Colonel.

After leaving the active duty army he returned to Kansas and enrolled in Kansas State University. He rapidly achieved his undergraduate degree and a master's degree in Dairy Science. He also met and married a young lady living next door to the home in Manhattan where his parents moved after the war. After graduating from Kansas State the family moved to Columbia, Missouri, where he worked on his PhD. After attaining his doctorate, he moved his growing family back to Manhattan to work for a short time at Kansas State. Then he took advantage of an opportunity and he accepted a position with the faculty of the University of Minnesota. In 1955, the family again moved to Ames, Iowa, where Fred became a member of the staff of what later became Iowa State University. He stayed at Iowa State until his retirement in 1985. At Iowa State he rose through the ranks to become a full Professor and then Professor in charge of the Dairy Science Curriculum. He won a number of awards as a teacher and advisor. He was a popular professor in the College of Agriculture and was the faculty advisor to various student organizations. Early in his career he coached the dairy cattle judging team. His teams won titles at a number of events including the National Dairy Cattle Congress competition.

As a part of his activities while at Kansas State, the University of Minnesota, and Iowa State, Fred began to judge dairy cattle at local fairs, state fairs, and regional shows. He combined a good eye for functional type--physical characteristics of the cattle that were positively correlated to higher production of milk--with the ability to articulate the reasons for the decisions he made clearly and persuasively. As his reputation as a dairy cattle judge grew he was asked to judge more prestigious shows and speak at type conferences. The information farmers learned at these shows and conferences influenced the decisions they made about which cattle to use for breeding. For over a generation Fred was one of the most respected dairy cattle judges in the world. He was one the few judges asked to judge the national shows of all six major dairy cattle breeds in the United States. His record of thirteen national shows judged is still one of the best in history. In addition, Fred was asked to judge national shows or shows of importance in Central America, South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. He continued his travel and judging for years after his retirement from teaching duties at Iowa State.

Although Fred judged prestigious shows, he also judged a number of local and junior shows. He enjoyed the drama of the national shows, but he also enjoyed conducting "fitting and showing" shows that allowed him to teach young
people the art and science of showing dairy cattle. He was a relentless recruiter of young people on farms everywhere to go to college as a way to be a better farmer or to find a job off the farm. Convincing parents to support children to go to college was a hard sell in some households early in his career, but Fred was able to use his own career as an example. His advocacy persuaded many families to send their youngsters to college and quite a few went to Iowa State. One of his proudest moments came with the establishment of the Fred Foreman Scholarship Fund at Iowa State University.

Fred and Melba retired to Arizona in 1985 to enjoy their grandchildren and the weather. Both played golf regularly at the Palmbrook Country Club in Sun City where they lived until they moved to Sagewood in north Phoenix.
Norman L. Jacobson

Norman L. Jacobson, 96, passed away on Thursday, May 14, 2015, in Eugene, Ore. He was born in Eau Claire, Wis., on Sept. 11, 1918, and spent his youth on the family farm. He earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1940 and subsequently master’s and doctorate degrees from Iowa State University in Ames.

Norman had a long and illustrious career as a professor of dairy science and as an administrator at Iowa State University before he retired in 1989. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, much of the time as a navigator on the USS Yukon. In 2011, Norman moved in with his son and daughter-in-law in Eugene, Ore., and for the last few months, he resided at Farmington Square Senior Living Community in Eugene.

He is survived by one son, Gary, of Eugene, Ore.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Gertrude (Trudy), and one daughter, Judy.

Memorial donations in Norman’s name can be made to the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America (www.alzfdn.org). Arrangements by Sunset Hills Funeral Home, 4810 Willamette St., Eugene, OR, 97405. A service will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, June 26, 2015, at Collegiate Presbyterian Church in Ames.

- See more at: http://amestrib.com/obituaries/norman-l-jacobson-sept-11-1918-may-14-2015#sthash.mpz1PrXd.dpuf
Dr Graeme Quick

In mid May 2015, Australia lost one of its most prominent and innovative agricultural engineers, with the passing of Dr Graeme Quick at his home in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland, Queensland.

Graeme was one of the world's leading experts on grain harvesting technology, having been a partner in the initial development of the Axial Flow combine harvester. His expertise extended to other farm machinery, including the Kwik-Cut front for harvesting soybeans.

After graduating in engineering from the University of Melbourne, and taking a Ph.D. from Iowa State University in the 1960's, Graeme spent the first few years working in the N. American farm equipment industry. He then took up a position as Principal Research Scientist in CSIRO Division of Mechanical Engineering from 1976-1981. Between 1981 and 1988 he was Director of Engineering for the NSW Department of Agriculture. He was Head of the Agricultural Engineering Division of the International Rice Research Institute in Los Banos, Philippines, between 1988 and 1995.

In 1995-96 he worked on projects for FAO involving small farm machinery improvement in the developing world. In 1997 he took up the position of team leader in the Power & Machinery Engineering Section and Adjunct Professor, Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering Department, Iowa State University until his retirement in 2004. His research interests with Iowa State were on the engineering aspects of farm machinery design, particularly on harvesting of grains and biomass, and in crop cutting and other machine/plant phenomena. He has built many pieces of field machinery, including a tractorloader and several harvesters.

During his professional career Graeme was awarded 15 design patents, has produced fourteen farm machinery books and over 150 peer-reviewed documents and research articles, He is the first Australian to have been made a Fellow, American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) He was also a Fellow and Chartered Professional Engineer, Institution of Engineers, Australia. In 2004 he was awarded US Agricultural Engineering’s highest recognition – the CH McCormick - JI Case gold medal, for his meritorious contributions to the profession.
Throughout his professional career Graeme cultivated an exceptionally amicable relationship with all aspects of the farm machinery business, from the largest multi-national corporations to the smallest short line manufacturer.

He was equally at home with research colleagues or yarning in the paddock with farmers, and formed many lifelong friendships. Since returning home to Queensland he continued book writing – book number 14 was recently published. He also conducted engineering consultancies (including GRDC), on going R & D on soybean harvesting technology, combine harvester fires, herbicide-resistant weed management, and most recently on an autonomous tool carrier development.

He will be greatly missed.

(This article is compiled by colleagues Jeff Esdaile and Jeff Tullberg and approved by the Quick family).
Thursday, 18 June 2015
Elizabeth (Bettie) Ellen Dawson Kiser was born on April 30, 1922 in Vermillion, South Dakota, the daughter of Joseph Charles Dawson IV and Mabel Geneva Armstrong Dawson. Bettie graduated from Vermillion High School in 1940 and received her bachelor’s degree in Home Economics Education from South Dakota State University in Brookings in 1944. She met James Joy Kiser in 1946 in Chicago where he was coaching the SDSU livestock judging team. They were married in Vermillion on September 15, 1947.

Jim and Bettie moved to Ames in 1951 when Jim was hired as a professor of Animal Science at Iowa State University. Bettie went to work the following year at ISU in 4-H Extension. Kathy was born in 1954 and Janice in 1955. After her daughters were in school, Bettie re-entered the professional world in 1962 at ISU following her passion of working with young people as a freshman advisor in the college of Home Economics.

Bettie was actively involved in her daughter’s lives taking on such duties as church choir mother, Camp Fire and 4-H leader, dance recital costume maker, and chauffeur extraordinaire. She never missed a concert, recital or event. One of her favorite family activities was riding horses with Jim, Kathy and Jan. Bettie had SO many interests. Among them she loved sewing Chanel suits with matching shoes, baking pies of all kinds, arranging flowers from her garden in a cut-glass vase, and decorating her home for Christmas.

Bettie belonged to professional organizations such as Faculty Women’s Club and AAUW. She was an advisor for the Animal Science Student Wives. Bettie was an avid bridge player and enjoyed playing in several women’s clubs, plus she and Jim were part of a beloved couples dinner bridge club. They also enjoyed dancing, founded a square dance group, and were long-time members of Red Friars.

Bettie died the morning of August 14, 2015.

Bettie’s family includes her loving and devoted husband of 67 years, Jim; her daughter and son-in-law, Kathy and Jay Light; her daughter and son-in-law, Jan and Bruce Frank; Jay’s son, Richard Light; her granddaughter, Abby Frank; and her grandson, Evan Frank. She is also survived by her younger sister, Marilyn Maurice Dawson Woolridge.

Bettie was preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Evelyn Dawson Park Lee; and her brother, Joseph Charles Dawson V.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be directed to the Story County 4-H Endowment in memory of Bettie Kiser at the following address: The Iowa 4-H Foundation, Iowa State University, 3630 Extension 4-H Youth Building, Ames, IA 50011-3630.
Professor Emeritus Richard Pletcher passed away September 12, 2015 at the age of 80.

Dr. Richard (Dick) Pletcher was born in 1935 in Elkhart, Indiana. He graduated from Purdue University with a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering in 1957. He married Carol Robbins on June 9, 1957 in Elkhart, and from there the couple left for Dick’s active duty in the U.S. Navy in California. Dick served as Ensign and Ltjg for 3 years with amphibious forces in the Pacific. He was an engineering officer of a landing craft and an assistant gunnery officer on a landing ship dock from 1957 to 1960. He spent 2 years with United Aircraft Research Laboratories in Hartford, Connecticut from 1965 to 1967. Dick returned to academia and attended Cornell University for graduate school, receiving M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in mechanical engineering. He joined the faculty of Department of Mechanical Engineering at Iowa State University in 1967 until his retirement in 2007, after 40 years. During his time at Iowa State, he also served as Director of the Computational Fluid Dynamics Center. He was a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. His life’s work contributed greatly to the ISU Department of Mechanical Engineering’s strong reputation in education and research. Dick received the ASME Heat Transfer Memorial Award in Science in 2009. He was an associate editor of the Journal of Heat Transfer and served on the editorial advisory board of Numerical Heat Transfer. Dick conducted basic and applied topics in fluid dynamics and heat transfer. He served as principal investigator for numerous research grants from sponsors such as NSF, NASA, the Army Research Office, Allison Gas Turbines, John Deere, Department of Energy, Air Force Office of Scientific Research and served as a consultant to industry and government. He gave many invited lectures throughout the world. He authored or co-authored over 80 journal articles and several books, the most notable of which was Computational Fluid Mechanic and Heat Transfer, a textbook that survived three editions over a 30 year period. It was one of the first texts available in that emerging field made possible by the digital computer. He served as major or co-major professor for 33 doctoral students and 17 master’s students. Dick was an active member of Collegiate Presbyterian Church, Town and Country Kiwanis, and an avid fan of ISU women’s basketball. Dick loved his family, Brittany dogs, hunting, fishing and computational fluid dynamics. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Carol, three children, and six grandchildren.
George Serovy

Professor Emeritus George Serovy passed away November 14, 2014 at the age of 88.

George Serovy, mechanical engineering alumnus and previous Anson Marston Distinguished Professor in Engineering, passed away November 14, 2014 at Mary Greeley Hospital in Ames. George Kaspar Serovy was born in 1926 to George and Helen (Kaspar) Serovy. He enrolled at Iowa State College in 1943, and earned his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering after enlisting in the Navy and serving in St. Louis. Afterwards, he worked with the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, the predecessor of NASA, in Cleveland from 1947 to 1948, where he explored his interest in turbomachinery. George returned to Iowa State in 1958 to complete his Ph.D., then taught as the Anson Marston Distinguished Professor in Engineering until his retirement in 1991. He taught in both Lausanne, Switzerland and Paris as an exchange professor on two separate sabbaticals. George was active in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the International Gas Turbine Institute, and also consulted for NATO and many leaders in the aeronautics and turbomachinery industries. George is survived by his wife, Joy, five children, five granddaughters and one great-granddaughter. He is remembered for his loyalty, integrity and wit, and as an avid walker, jazz lover, saxophonist and world traveler.
John F. (Jack) Smith (1923-2015)

John F. “Jack” Smith, a professor emeritus of materials science and engineering at Iowa State University and an associate scientist at the U.S. Department of Energy’s Ames Laboratory, died September 26, 2015 at the age of 92.

Jack was born May 9, 1923 to Peter Francis and Johanna (Spandle) Smith in Kansas City, Kansas. He grew up in Kansas City, and in Hays, which is in western Kansas. He enlisted in the Navy in 1942 and served as a fighter pilot on the carrier USS Suwannee. In 1995, he published a book about his time on the Suwannee titled Hellcats over the Philippine Deep.

In 1947, he married Evelyn Ann Ross in Kansas City. They moved to Ames, Iowa in 1948 where Jack began a 40 year career as a professor of metallurgy at Iowa State University and a senior scientist with the Ames Laboratory. Jack served as chairman of the department from 1966 through 1970. He earned a reputation in his department as a dedicated teacher, an excellent administrator and a prolific researcher. He often said that he was one of the privileged few who got paid to do something he loved.

With a background in metal behavior, Jack co-developed an ultrasonic method for measuring bolt tension, which improved upon the traditional torque-wrench method of measurement. The technique had wide-ranging implications for the airline industry, power plants, factories and large machines.

Jack retired from Iowa State and the Ames Laboratory in 1988, at which time he became a professor emeritus and associate scientist.

Jack was elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemists in 1969 and the American Society of Metals (ASM) in 1984. He received an ISU Alumni Association Faculty Citation in June 1977. He served for 24 years as editor of the ASM Journal of Phase Equilibria and Diffusion, continuing to edit well into his 80’s. He authored more than 180 technical papers in his career, as well as a book on thorium. In 2007, Jack was named an International Member of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Aviation was a lifelong passion for Jack, and he logged close to 5,000 hours in approximately 150 different types of aircraft over the years. He was one of the founding members of the Silent Knights glider club in Ames and he was actively involved in the Civil Air Patrol.

He is survived by two children, Mark F. (Betty) Smith of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Letitia (Steve) Harder of Ames; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Evelyn, in 1994; and his brother, Jim Yurchak.

Jack will be remembered by all that knew him as a warm and caring man whose sense of humor was ever-present.
Vic Tamashunas, 89, passed away August 22, 2015 at The Waterford at Ames. Vic was born September 21, 1925 to immigrant parents John and Veronica (Rozman) Tamashunas in the Greenville section of Sioux City, Iowa. He graduated from East High School in 1943 and then enrolled at Morningside College. Vic remained there until January of 1944, when he entered the service at Ft. Crook, NE (now Offutt AFB).

After 17 weeks of artillery basic training at Ft. Sill, OK, Vic went overseas by air from LaGuardia to Karachi. With 25 others, he formed the nucleus of the 5th Field Artillery Sound-Ranging Platoon at Ramgarh. Trained in the location and direction of artillery fire, they were assigned to the Chinese First Army and joined in the Burma campaign until the fall of Lashio. In April of '45, Vic went to China and stayed there until the war was over, serving with the army group pushing toward Canton and Hong Kong. He then was mustered out as a corporal and returned to Sioux City and Morningside College.

Vic transferred to Iowa State University in Ames, graduating in 1950 with a BS degree in general engineering. His first job was as an industrial engineer in Omaha. A year later he relocated to Lincoln, where Vic joined the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company as an I.E. with many diversified activities. He stayed there until 1956 when Vic elected to become part of the engineering faculty at Iowa State University, where he had a long and distinguished career. Vic started as an instructor, received his Master of Science in 1959, and became a full professor. Vic retired as Emeritus Professor of Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering from ISU in June of 1991.

His memberships and honors were manifold and include: Registered Professional Engineer, Senior Member of the American Institute of IE's, Professor of the Year-College of Engineering, AIIE Region IX Engineer of the Year and Member College Advisory Council Materials Handling Institute, Vice President Region XI, American Institute of Industrial Engineers (1977-1979) and serving with Governor Ray on the Governor's Committee on Emergency Planning & Civil Defense. He joined the Graduate Faculty in 1974 and gave thesis direction to candidates for advanced degrees from around the world. But for all of his achievements Vic valued his time with his students the most.

He will always be remembered for his pride in being from Sioux City, being past National Commander of the CBIVA (China Burma India Veterans Association), his avid support of ISU's women's basketball team, going to see plays at Actors, the Lions Club, his book of birth dates and never forgetting one, good food (especially a good breakfast), lemon slices in his water, hot soup, dancing for Red Friars at the Memorial Union, ball room dancing at Lake Robbins, big band and swing music, concerts, a love for history and travel, being Lithuanian, and most of all having fun and spending time with his family and friends.
Vic is survived by his daughter, Vicki (Meryl) Syslo and their children, Ted and Anne, of Robbinsdale, MN; his son, John Tamashunas of Ankeny and his children, Sara (Brandon) Bice and their son Parker of Grimes; Michael (Sharon) Tamashunas and their daughter, Jamie of Ames; his special dear friend, LaVonne Schumann of Ames; and his sister-in-law, Terri Hastrieter of Humphrey, Neb. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Doris; four siblings; and his sisters-in-law, Anne Thomas and Bernadette Simms.
Mary Ann Tétreault was Professor of Political Science at Iowa State University from 1994-2000, and from 1994 to 1995 was Director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center.

She was the emeritus Una Chapman Cox Distinguished Professor of International Affairs at Trinity University, in San Antonio, Texas. She passed away Wednesday, Nov. 11, in Newport, Vermont, at the age of 73. She developed a reputation for listening without judgment and being open to a range of ideas. A social fraternity at Trinity selected her as "Professor of the Year" in 2009, and that University bestowed an advising award on her the same year. Students often gave glowing testimonials of how Tétreault helped them gain self-confidence to reach their fullest potential and spoke of "her patience, energy, enthusiasm, and sage advice." She retired from Trinity in 2012.

Tétreault began in academia as a chemist and historian. Tétreault won a National Science Foundation scholarship to study politics after several years as a community activist.

Tétreault also found a curiosity about the oil industry and America's love-hate relationship with the Middle East because of oil. After writing her dissertation about the Arab oil exporters of the Persian Gulf, she earned a doctorate from Rice University. Tétreault was a Fulbright Fellow at Kuwait University in 1990 and Comenius University in Slovakia in 1996. She taught at Kitakyushu University, Old Dominion University, and Iowa State University (professor of Political Science from 1994-2000 and from 1994-1995 Director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center) before arriving at Trinity. She also was a visiting professor at the American University of Kuwait and a fellow at the Georgetown School of Foreign Service in Qatar.

In retirement, she returned to her home in Vermont. She continued to travel to Kuwait and was honored as the Distinguished Senior Scholar in Political Economy by the International Studies Association. She was author or editor of a dozen books and monographs on world politics, international political economy, feminist approaches to social movements, politics and society in Kuwait, gender and nationalism, petroleum and global politics, women and revolution, and dependency theory, as well as 90 journal articles and book chapters on related topics.
It is fitting that the beginning of the end of Bob Wessel's life started in Canada in his beloved cabin after spending a week with family. He fell and broke his hip. Bob loved to travel and had visited and/or lived in Denmark, Spain, Italy, Germany, England, The Netherlands, Greece, Turkey, and the Azores (Port.). But he felt most content in his cabin on Eagle River in Canada.

He loved the un tarnished and undeveloped home away from home. He could sit on the dock or in a boat for hours fishing. It didn't matter whether he caught a fish, he just wanted to be there.

Robert Irving Wessel passed away Sept. 24 from complications from surgery from his fall in August. Bob was born on March 7, 1926 in Manson, Iowa. He was the son of Bessie (Jeffords) and Lawrence Wessel, a carpenter. The fifth in a family of 10 children raised during the depression, he spent much of his early childhood in Belmond, Iowa. The Wessel family moved to Ames in 1939. In 1944 Bob graduated from Ames High School; in 1952 he received a BA in history from ISU; an MA in history from ISU and in 1966, he received his PhD. from the University of Minnesota. He returned to teach at ISU from 1967 - 1987. He retired to teach on military bases in Europe.

"The fact that a great many people believe something is no guarantee of its truth." -W. Somerset Maugham, The Razor's Edge. Bob related to this book as he spent much time in self-reflection and wanderlust.

Bob didn't want us to talk about his degrees and he was happy not to use the title "Dr." He loved to teach; he loved to travel, he loved left-leaning politics and he loved his family: wife, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and more. Bob's family extended well beyond blood.
He had a heart for those who had less than him. As a child, he did not know, from day to day, if he would have food to eat. Bob’s biggest fear was that the generations to come would forget what it was like to go hungry. He was passionate about serving the poor, worked for civil rights for all and was passionate about preserving the environment.

Following high school, Bob joined the Army Air Corps but failed to find meaning as a nose gunner. He concluded that war is not the answer and became a peace activist. He challenged the US involvement in Vietnam and elsewhere.

In addition to his time in Canada, Bob had a deep love for travel and in particular cherished the time he spent in Denmark and Turkey. He often pointed out the things that most affected his life: his childhood during the Depression, where he saw and felt what poverty was; his years in the army at the end of World War II, where he saw and came to believe in the idea of rules for rules sake as meaningless; and his year in Denmark (1949-1950) where he learned what it means for the government to take responsibility for the health and care of all of its citizens. It was in Denmark that he found his political place and it was from these things his life grew.

In 1973 Bob and Edith took the family to Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Germany so he could introduce his family to his love of travel and the ability to appreciate and love other cultures.

As a part of his commitment to others, Bob, and his beloved wife Edith, were active in their church life, pushing the church to be more involved in caring for others through food banks or homeless shelters, always believing that in Christ we are called to serve. In all ways his life reflected his respect and compassion for people of all faiths and economic resources.

Bob was a voracious reader, loved classical music, strong cheese, Greek salads and a good argument. He was a compassionate contrarian.

At the center of Bob’s life was his family. He met his Edith at a Lutheran Student Association meeting in 1951. They were married for more than 63 years.

Bob is survived by his children Keith Wessel (Lori) of Madison, Wisconsin, and their blended family including sons, Sven Irwin (wife Heather, daughters Kinley, Kianna), Erik Irwin (wife Chelsea, daughters Aishe, Jayla and Avannah) and Matthew; Ellen Schuler (Jeff) of Stevens Point, Wisconsin and their daughters Eleni (husband Will, son Asher), Hannah and Sophie; Beth Wessel Kroeschell (Tom) of Ames, Iowa, their daughter Liza and son Robbie; Cheryl Wessel of Oak Harbor, Ohio and her daughter Kiri; Joanne Ellarson of Mazomanie, Wisconsin and her sons Wesley and Casey.

Bob is also survived by his sisters Katherine Eschbach of Ames, Betty Dodge and Donna Erickson of Shawnee, Oklahoma and a brother Tom Wessel of Bozeman, Montana. Bob was preceded in death by his parents and brothers Carrol, Clair, Chester and James Wessel and sister Helen Policastro.

Memorials may be given to Emergency Housing in Ames, Doctors Without Borders or a charity of your choice. A visitation will be held at St. Andrews Church in Ames Sunday, Sept. 27 from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. A celebration of life service will be held at 11 am Monday, Sept. 28 at the St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Ames.