Frederick Gramm Brown, 89, of Ames passed away on September 21, 2021. He is survived by Barbara Ann (Thaller) Brown, his wife of 65 years. He also leaves behind children Jeffrey (Gretchen) of Charlotte, North Carolina, Kirk (Lori) of Madison, Wisconsin, and Daniel of Redmond, Washington. He brought great joy to the lives of his six grandchildren - Nathaniel, Tyler, Evan, Lindsay, Elise and Kristen.

A graduate of University of Wisconsin-Madison (BA, MA) and the University of Minnesota (PhD), Fred was a University Professor of Psychology at Iowa State University from 1962 to 1997. In addition to his passion for teaching, he wrote three books including a leading textbook on educational testing and measurement. Colleagues who used that text judged it a masterpiece translating quantitative concepts into lucid text for the college student. He was a very decent and caring colleague who was devoted to ISU, and he was a champion and leader of the University Honors Program. In 1993 he was awarded the title of University Professor in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the university including developing innovative graduate programs, having an important impact on the undergraduate honors program and its students, and working to improve the academic success of student athletes. Among his most enjoyable and enriching academic opportunities were a year at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences in Stanford, California and another year at the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey.

His lifelong interest in writing and books led him to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Ames Public Library, as well as on the Ames Public Library Friends Foundation board. Later in life he came to love opera, enjoying the performances of the Des Moines Metro Opera and the many new friends he met. In retirement, if the temperature reached the 40s, you could regularly find Fred spending mornings playing a round of golf with his intrepid faculty friends at Veenker Golf Course. With that foursome it was mind over matter, but often that did not matter to the slopes of Veenker.
Remembering Bill Gillette

Bill Gillette, an award-winning free-lance photographer for Time Magazine and National Geographic, and whose photographs hang at the Smithsonian Museum of American History, died August 1, 2021, at age 89 while in hospice care in San Luis Obispo, Calif. Bill joined the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (now the Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication) in 1975, and served as assistant professor, associate professor and professor until his retirement in 1997.

Born in Cooperstown, N.Y. in 1932, Bill began taking photos in his teens. He received professional training in photography while in the Air Force during the Korean War and conducted aerial surveillance and mapping missions with the 91st Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron. After the war, he finished college and completed a MA in journalism at the University of Colorado and a PhD in communications and natural resources at Colorado State University.

After joining ISU’s journalism department, Bill developed courses in slide-tape photography, utilizing multiple projectors synchronized with sound. That led to development of a six-projector show used in ISU summer orientations for more than 5,000 students. Later, he developed courses focusing on use of photography for social documentaries. His work for Business Week magazine led to a cover story on “America’s Deflation Belt” documenting impacts of economic slowdowns in the oil, agriculture and mining industries. Another documentary focused on Mayan Indians forced to migrate to Mexico from Guatemala. A third focused on impacts of industrialized agriculture in Iowa and the San Joaquin Valley of California. He also developed photo projects for ISU students, including one documenting life in Sully, Iowa, in which the students spent a week in the town doing interviews and taking photos. His standards were high. While teaching, he continued professional photographic work, including an iconic Time Magazine cover shot of a house floating down the Mississippi River during the 1993 flood. That photo was selected as one of Time’s Images of the Year. His photos often depicted the relationships between people and the land. His obituary noted that his mining and ranching photographs are on display in the Smithsonian Museum of American History, and his work for the EPA Documerica is part of the permanent collection of the U.S. National Archives.

Colleague Lulu Rodriguez observed that “His connections with his subject matter—land use and conservation, wildlife, renewable energy sources, agriculture, ag labor, natural resources—went far beyond the beauty of his images. Whether in the rugged fields of Oaxaca, Mexico, or the mountain valleys of Colorado, he saw his subjects and captured their humanity.”

Bill had a special interest in international
students and topics. During several summers he trained teams of international agricultural communication specialists at ISU in how to use photos and slide/tape to tell effective stories about agricultural and rural life. In 1976, as part of a project to document the world food problem, he traveled to Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, Nepal and Bangladesh. In 1993, he spent six weeks in Mexico working on the impact of large-scale agriculture in the Culiacan and Guasave areas of Northwestern Mexico that was published by National Geographic News Service. In his later years, he invited international students to his home each Thanksgiving to share that tradition with them.

In 1993, Bill led the department’s effort to move to digital photography, acquiring Kodak cameras and the first 10 Photoshop licenses for the journalism program. He envisioned a complete transfer out of the chemical darkroom and fully into the electronic imaging and production age. Two years later he was teaching students how to use photographic software on new MacIntosh computers. By 1996, with his help, the Iowa State Daily was using fully digital photography, ahead of the Des Moines Register.

Bill’s priority was his love of photography and desire to train students and use it to document important issues. He was not a self-promoter.

Over his more than 20 years at Iowa State, he often failed to include anything in the department’s annual newsletter, saying “I have nothing to report.” Bill also did not have time or patience for bureaucracy. Colleague Giles Fowler, writing in the annual newsletter in 1997 as Bill retired, observed that “Gillette makes no secret of his disdain for academic committees, protocol, bureaucracy, regents and administrators of just about any stripe.”

After retirement, Bill moved to Westcliffe, Colorado, where he set up shop as a free lance photographer and mountain man. He continued to document the life around him, such as his 2014 “The Living Landscape: Seasons Under the Sangres.”

He is survived by his son David (Jane) and daughter Shana, grand-daughter Isabelle, sister Carlene (Gil) and dear friend Anne. Bill and his wife Beverly were divorced while he was in Ames.

Memorial Resolution Written by Emeritus Professor Eric Abbott
Oct. 5, 2021
Neil E. Harl

Neil E. Harl, Emeritus Professor of Economics and Emeritus Charles F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor in Agriculture, died November 4, 2021, at Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames at age 88 years.

Neil Harl was born October 9, 1933, in his parents’ farm home in Appanoose County, Iowa. He attended local public schools and graduated from Seymour High School in 1951. He then enrolled in Iowa State College (as ISU was then named) and graduated in 1955. After a brief stint of active duty in the US Army, he enrolled in the College of Law at the University of Iowa and graduated from that institution with a Juris Doctor degree in 1961. He then enrolled in the graduate program of the Economics Department at ISU and graduate with a PhD in Economics in the spring of 1965.

He became a member of the Iowa State University faculty on December 1, 1964, as an Associate Professor of Economics. He was promoted to Professor on July 1, 1967, and became a Distinguished Professor in 1976.

During his years on the ISU faculty, Harl’s appointment was divided among teaching, research and extension, with approximately one-half time devoted to teaching. He primarily taught two courses at the undergraduate level – agriculture law and resource economics — and three courses at the graduate level – advanced resource economics, water resources, and antitrust and trade regulation. He was known as an excellent, innovative and effective instructor at both
the undergraduate and graduate levels, and he was the recipient of numerous teaching awards. Here are three awards for teaching that he received: Outstanding Teacher Award, Iowa State University, 1973; Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award, American Agricultural Economics Association, 1976; Outstanding Educator, Mortar Board, 1989.

Neil Harl is widely known and respected for his prodigious output of scholarly publications. He was the author or co-author of more than 300 scholarly articles and professional bulletins. And he produced a 15-volume treatise, *Agriculture Law*, which he updated twice annually for years. This work came to define the subdiscipline of agricultural law. It was used widely by attorneys and legal scholars throughout the US.

Neil Harl worked diligently to increase the legal and economic knowledge base of attorneys, CPAs, lenders, those in business, farmers, and families throughout the United States, as well as in Iowa. For example, in 1974, he inaugurated two Farm Income Tax Schools for practitioners in Iowa. The two-day schools were expanded to eight at various locations in Iowa and reached 1200 to 1400 attorneys, CPAs and other tax practitioners each year. Here are four (of many) awards that Harl received for his extension work: Faculty Service Award, National University Extension Association, 1980; Distinguished Service Award, Iowa State University Extension, 1984; Distinguished Service to Iowa Agriculture, Iowa Chapter of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers, 1996; Charles A. Black Award for “ability to disseminate research findings to the public,” Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, 1997.


Neil was preceded in death by his wife, Darlene. He is survived by his two sons, James and Rodney, and five grandchildren.

*Respectfully submitted by Dennis R. Starleaf*
Joan Emily Herwig, age 78, of Ames, passed away Monday, August 30, 2021, at home following a courageous battle with cancer.

Joan received a B.S. degree (1965) from the University of Wisconsin-Stout, Menomonie, WI, a M.S. degree (1971) from Iowa State University and her Ph.D. (1978) from Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. Joan taught and served as counselor at Washington Intermediate School, Port Huron, MI (1965-1969) and taught in the first summer Head Start programs (1966-1968) in the same community. She joined the Child Development (now Human Development and Family Studies) Department, Iowa State faculty as an instructor (1971) and retired as Associate Professor Emerita (2003).

Joan’s academic and research career included Child Development Laboratory School teacher (1971-1975) and years later as director (1993-2002), department chairperson (1983-1986), graduate student major professor and advisor to many domestic and international students (1978-2003). She was director of the laboratory school during the years of construction and completion of the James and Barbara Palmer Human Development Building. She provided leadership for the Iowa Department of Education Committees for Iowa Standards for Programs for 4-year-olds.

Joan received many professional recognitions. These included the Amoco Outstanding Teaching Award (1982), Outstanding Academic Advisor in College of Home Economics from the Student Alumni Association (1982), Distinguished Alumni Award University of Wisconsin-Stout (1985), U.S./China Joint Conference on Early Childhood, Beijing (1993), the first NAEYC Accreditation (1986) and the Gold Seal Award (2001) for the Child Development Laboratory School, and Faculty Citation (2002). She was a Fulbright Scholar to India (1991-1992).
Ronald K. Leonard

Devoted husband, incredible father, and doting grandpa Ronald Keith Leonard passed away of Parkinson’s on November 8, 2021. He was born on a farm near Logan, IA, on July 10, 1934, to LaVica and Burton Leonard. He graduated from Woodbine High School in 1952, received a B.S. in Engineering from Iowa State University and his M.S in Agricultural Engineering from Michigan State University. He married high school classmate Elizabeth “Liz” Mullenix in 1954. While an undergraduate, Ron enlisted in the ROTC, served in the Amy, and was in the Army Reserves for seven years. After graduation from Iowa State University In 1956, Ron joined the Cotton Harvesting Division of the John Deere Des Moines Works and had a career with Deere & Co in Des Moines, Horicon, and Waterloo. He was responsible for designing cotton harvesters in the 60s, lawn and garden tractors, and snowmobiles in the 70s and 80s, and helped John Deere transform agricultural tractors into a worldwide success in the late 80s through global partnerships with agricultural manufacturing companies. He retired in 1998 as Director of Worldwide Tractor and Component Engineering for Deere & Co. Throughout his career as a Product Design Engineer, Ron acquired seven (7) USA patents. Upon retirement, he wrote and published “John Deere Snowmobiles” with his good friend Dick Teal. Throughout his career, Ron was an active member of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, and the Society of Automotive Engineers, serving as their President in 1998. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1999. At the time of his death, he was an Associate Professor of the ABE Department at Iowa State University. Ron was an avid hunter, sports enthusiast, published author, and amateur poet. His outdoor interests ranged from hunting in Montana to Alaskan fishing trips with his brother-in-law. He was a lifetime runner who competed in 5Ks, half-marathons, and the corporate relays at the annual Drake Relays and loved playing pick-up basketball with his John Deere colleagues before work. He wrote new poems for friends, family, and special work occasions and in retirement, he enjoyed participating in the Key West Writers Workshop. Perhaps his greatest joy was watching his children and grandchildren grow, crafting heirloom furniture for them in his woodworking shop, and participating in their activities as much as possible. He was a member of the Methodist Church, served on various school boards, and was active in Rotary International Exchange Student activities for many years. Ron loved following the Iowa State Cyclones. Ron is survived by his wife of 67 years, Elizabeth Jane (Mullenix) Leonard. He is survived by children: Delaine Leonard of Austin, TX, Daniel Burton Leonard of Indian Trail, NC, and Diane Kay (Thomas) Gundrum of Milwaukee, WI, two grandchildren: Megan Elizabeth Gundrum and Trevor Reed Gundrum of Milwaukee, WI, and his sisters: Mary Jane Foutch of Woodbine, IA, and Betty (Michael) Ringstad of Missouri Valley, IA. He was preceded in death by one son, Daniel Wayne Leonard, his parents, LaVica and Burton Leonard, and sister Patricia Leonard. Memorial contributions may be made in his honor to the Ronald and Elizabeth Leonard Leadership in Creativity and Inspiration Scholarship at Iowa State University or to the National Academy of Engineering.
Philip “Phil” E. Van De Voorde

March 11, 1936 – July 30, 2021

Phil Van De Voorde passed away on July 30, 2021 at the Households of Bethany in Story City, Iowa at the age of 85. He was born on March 11, 1936, in Moline, Illinois to Ruth (Sears) and August Van De Voorde. Phil and Sharon Louise Swanson married in 1958.

He earned his Library Science degree at the University of Minnesota and began working as a librarian at ISU in 1966 and retired after 32 years of service in 1998. During his tenure at the Library, Phil was primarily a government documents librarian, and served terms on the US Government Printing Office Federal Depository Library Council and the as chair of the American Library Association Government Documents Roundtable. His work on these groups helped improve access to government documents through the Federal Depository Library Program.

Phil was a true lifelong learner, a lover of history, books, and travel. He enjoyed the beauty of nature, gardening, walking (and running as a younger man), music and watching movies. He is survived by his wife Sharon (Swanson), three children, Rebecca Hagen (Thomas), Steven Van De Voorde, and Linda Livingston, and three grandchildren.
David Wilder
June 11th, 1929- August 18th, 2021

David Wilder, professor emeritus and former chair of the Iowa State University Department of Materials Science and Engineering, passed away on Aug. 18, 2021, at the age of 92. He retired from Iowa State in May 1991 after a long and impactful career.

Wilder began his time at ISU as an undergraduate student, receiving his bachelor's degree in 1951, and he went on to earn his master's in 1952 and his Ph.D. in 1958, all in ceramic engineering. While a student, Wilder was in the marching band, was a member of the Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society, and lived in Friley Hall.

He started working at Ames Laboratory in 1952, where he served in many roles from junior engineer all the way to division chief and senior engineer, and he joined the engineering staff in 1955 as an instructor in what was then the Department of Ceramic Engineering. Wilder moved up the ranks to assistant professor, associate professor and then professor and chairman by 1961, succeeding Charles M. Dodd as chair — he held the titles of professor and chairman, and then professor and head, of ceramic engineering until 1975. He also served as acting head of the Department of Architecture at one point.

In 1975, the merger of ceramic engineering and metallurgy resulted in what is today known as the Department of Materials Science and Engineering (MSE); from that point, Wilder was professor and chairman of MSE until 1988. He finished his work in the department as professor of MSE until his retirement.

During his time at Iowa State, Wilder taught courses such as Introduction to Ceramic Engineering, Ceramics in the Modern World, and High Temperature Processes; his research was centered on ceramic processing for nuclear applications.

He was professionally active and received many honors and awards. Wilder was a registered professional engineer with several technical publications and patents; a fellow of the American Ceramic Society, the Iowa Academy of Science, and the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET); and a member of the National Institute of Ceramic Engineers, Keramos, the Ceramic Educational Council (Trustee), National Association for the Directors of International Agriculture (Vice Chairperson), Sigma Xi, Tau Beta Pi, and the Knights of St. Patrick.

A lifelong Cyclone fan, Wilder was a member of the ISU 25 Club since 1977 and was a recipient of the ISU Alumni Association’s Superior Service Award. Wilder had four children with his wife of 70 years, Donna, and many grandchildren.