



Edward Von Halle Obituary

June 30, 1926 - July 5, 2013

Edward Von Halle, an internationally known scientist, died peacefully in his sleep at his Oak Ridge home on July 5, 2013. Also active in the Oak Ridge community and a devoted husband and father, he was 87.

Ed was born on June 30th, 1926, in Brooklyn, New York, and spent his earliest years there. He won the Westinghouse Prize in high school and went on to study Chemical Engineering at Carnegie Institute of Technology. When war broke out Ed was too young to volunteer and had to wait until 1944 to enlist. Ed was on the docks in California ready to be part of the mainland invasion of Japan when news of the atomic bomb brought the war to an end. After the military Ed returned to Carnegie Tech and completed his degree. Ed went on in later years to get his master's degree from Bucknell in Lewisburg, Pa., and his doctorate from the University of Tennessee, all in chemical engineering.

In 1950 Ed moved to Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to work at K-25. In 1952 he married Elizabeth Sgourakis and started a family.

Ed Von Halle was an internationally renowned expert in the theory of isotope separation. His Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Tennessee was on the subject of separation of species by thermal diffusion, and his later contributions covered isotope separation by gaseous diffusion, gas centrifuge and laser methods. Ed spent most of his career in the Operations Analysis and Planning Division at K-25 where he became greatly respected as a mentor, writer, and expert on various methods for uranium enrichment. He spent a year at the Nuclear Energy Research Center in Karlsruhe, Germany where he worked on uranium enrichment theory. He also taught a University of Tennessee class on the theory of Uranium Enrichment as part of the Oak Ridge Resident Graduate Program. Dr. Von Halle was the author or co-author of many papers and journal articles on the flow and separation theory for gas centrifuges. He also spent a semester at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville pursuing interests in this area. His co-workers greatly appreciated the depth and breadth of his understanding of methods of uranium isotope separation, his unfailing amiability, and his gentle humor.

His expertise and professionalism in the field of uranium enrichment have been of major importance to peace and security for the United States and the world. After his retirement and up until just before his death, Ed consulted at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and

continued to contribute to the Nation in ways only he could. Ed was able to convey his knowledge and his opinions in clear, concise terms that were readily understood by those less trained in the subject. Because Ed worked in an environment of classified information, many of his contributions are not in the open literature. However, his contributions that are in the open are known and respected internationally. Those who had the privilege of working with Ed had the highest respect for his knowledge, leadership and ability to mentor them.

Ed was also active in the Oak Ridge Community. Ed and Liz were regulars at the Oak Ridge Playhouse. He coached church league basketball. He was Cub Master of Pack 226 in the sixties and Scout Master of Troop 228 in the seventies.

Ed is survived by his wife Elizabeth, sons Karl married to Cindy, Erik, and Kurt married to Lisa, three grandchildren DeAnna Elizabeth, Ann Taylor, and his namesake Alex Edward. In lieu of flowers Erik asks that you think of Edward, remember him fondly and smile.

Comments



“ We last saw Ed and Liz at the "Fish Market" Restaurant in Del Mar CA. Murray Hanig was also with us. Liz and Ed were on the return leg of their trip to Joshua Tree. Ed waited until the end of the meal to inform us that he didn't eat "finny fish". Who could have guessed?

Joan and Gene Newman - Mount Joy, PA - Friend and co-worker - July 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ I have so many fond memories of sitting in your kitchen, something good always either on the stove or in the oven. I loved your Dad's sense of humor and I know my mom and dad counted your mom and dad as two very special friends. Love to you all,
Martha

Martha Hanig Cunningham - Tallahassee, FL - family friend - July 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Ed and Liz Von Halle have been our neighbors for years. We all built our current homes and moved in around the same time in the 60's. Our two homes had a common path between them for frequent neighborly visits. Mr. Von Halle will be missed and our thoughts and prayers are with his family. Please stay in touch and let us know how the rest of the family is doing and we'll do the same. Our neighborhood won't be the same without him.

Barbara Riggs and Jessemae Noritake - July 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Hats off to a wonderful Oak Ridge couple! The modern term would be "power couple." Although recent contact has been limited to ORICL classes, for many years I benefited from the output from the Von Halle kitchen, as Liz brought goodies to work almost daily. Our thoughts and prayers and love go out to you, Liz and boys.
Helene and Chester Morgan

Helene Morgan - July 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers for the family and friends who knew Mr. Von Halle. He was a pleasure to work with, he smiled often and I am thankful for the opportunity to have worked and met him.

sue carroll - Oak Ridge - PTA at NHC - July 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Ed and Elizabeth were members of the play reading group we attended for many years. Ed had a lovely baritone voice that was pleasant to hear when he took a "part" in the play. We enjoyed visiting the Von Halle home and especially looked forward to Liz's delicious Greek specialties. As we all grew older, we saw less of Ed, but in recent years both he and Liz were members of National Fitness where Liz attended the Body Members class and Ed walked the track.

We send our condolences to the family, Sincerely, Robin and Ken Toth

Robin and Kenneth Toth - Oak Ridge, TN - friends - July 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM