



William Leitch "Bill" Marshall, Jr. Obituary

December 3, 1925 - August 25, 2013

WILLIAM LEITCH "BILL" MARSHALL, JR.

Chemical Scientist and Longtime Resident of Oak Ridge

William Leitch Marshall, Jr., a resident of Oak Ridge since 1949, passed away quietly in his sleep in the early hours of Sunday, August, 25th, 2013.

William Leitch Marshall, Jr., was born December 3, 1925 in Columbia, South Carolina, the son of William L., Sr., and Georgia Kittrell Marshall, with the name Leitch from his great grandfather, the first surveyor of the Port of Charleston, S.C. in 1851.

He grew up in Columbia, living one year in Aiken, S.C., and as a teen-ager strongly involved himself in photography, even working for a photo company, and also delivering the daily newspaper. Bill was a member of DeMolay and the Boy Scouts, and graduated from Dreher High School with top grades. From his parents he learned "to treat everyone fairly according to the Golden Rule."

Bill received his B.S. degree in chemistry from Clemson University in 2 1/4th years at age 19. At Clemson he taught in the chemistry laboratories, was a full-time waiter at the Clemson boarding house, and a first lieutenant in the ROTC. He greatly enjoyed both the academic and social life of the university.

Dr. Marshall received his Ph.D. degree in 1949 under Prof. A. B. Garrett in physical-organic chemistry in 3 1/2 years from Ohio State University, where he met his future wife, Joanne Fox, majoring in accounting.

Bill and Joanne were married in Coshocton, Ohio, April 16, 1949, and on their honeymoon trip they stopped in Oak Ridge unannounced for Bill to inquire about a research possibility that resulted in his life-time scientific career at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, a positive decision continually praised by both.

Bill started his research in 1949 with Dr. C. H. Secoy at Oak Ridge where they pioneered in exploring the behavior of uranium salts in high-temperature-water solutions as a fuel for the first pilot operating nuclear power-plant.

In 1956-57, Bill, accompanied by his wife, their two children and his mother, did research in Amsterdam at the van der Waals Laboratory as a prestigious Guggenheim Fellow. The family also traveled widely by car throughout western Europe and England. This scientific year was invaluable in advancing research on water and solutions to very high temperatures and pressures by Bill and his colleagues in Oak Ridge. It resulted in life-time collaborations with noted scientists, Prof. E. U. Franck (University of Karlsruhe, Germany), Drs. Anneke Levelt and Jan Sengers (van der Waals Laboratory and later, USA), and many other scientists worldwide studying high temperature water and solutions for power plants, geothermal energy, geochemistry, geology, oceanography, and origins of life.

Bill was a long-time active member of the International Association for the Properties of Water and Steam in participating throughout the world where he contributed such international standards as the ionization and electrical conductance of pure water to high temperatures and pressures. Dr. Marshall published over 125 widely cited basic scientific papers in the above fields and presented many invited plenary lectures both internationally and in the USA.

In 1977 Dr. Marshall received the Herty Gold Medal Award from the American Chemical Society, Georgia Section, for "Outstanding Contributions to Chemistry in the Southeastern United States," and in 1968 presented the invited "Pioneers in Chemistry" lecture at Wayne State University.

Bill was preceded in death by his most-loving, supportive wife of 56 years, Joanne Fox Marshall, his parents, William L. Marshall, Sr., and Georgia Kittrell Marshall, his mother-in-law, Mary Kimberley Fox, and father-in-law, William Benjamin Fox, and his step-mother-in-law, Marie Harbit Fox; by his sister-in-law, Marylou Gyourko Fox, sister-in-law, Brittainy Profitt Fox; and by his aunts and uncles.

Bill is survived by his daughter, Nancy M. Potter, and son-in-law, Dr. Walter D. Potter; by his son, William F. Marshall, and daughter-in-law, Sharon L. Marshall; and by granddaughters, Kimberley D. Potter and Caroline G. Marshall; and by grandsons, Dr. William M. Potter and Peter W. Marshall. Additional survivors are his brother-in law, William B. Fox, Jr.; and his niece, Katherine F. Tisdale and family, and his nephew, Daniel E. Fox and family.

Bill is best remembered as a dedicated researcher investigating the fundamental principles of nature; a loving husband, father, and grandfather; an avid hiker and swimmer; and a staunch advocate for the Oak Ridge "Super-pool".

He was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Oak Ridge. In lieu of flowers, it is requested that donations be made to the First Presbyterian Church in Oak Ridge.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, August 29th, 2013 at Martin Funeral Home from 11:00am to 1:00pm. A grave side service will follow at Oak Ridge Memorial Park.

Comments



“ Thanks for taking me under your wing and teaching me a lot not just about forbidden science but life in general. I still think back to that night I was your D.D. and we lived it up like two young college kids trying to pick up women..

Ray Brown - Oak Ridge, TN - Friend - November 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ I met Bill in the summer of 2007. Me and my roommate at the time were summer interns at ORNL and happened upon meeting Bill during one of our escapades into Knoxville for an evening of swing dancing lessons. We were quickly mesmerized with Bill's dancing as well as with what a beautiful person he was. From that day on, my roommate and I would look forward to the next time we could hang out with Bill. We went to the pool together, we went and got shakes together (at a small diner in Oak Ridge, can't remember the name)...We visited with him at his house...we visited the International Friendship Bell together. The more I think about it, the more I keep remembering how much time we spent with Bill that summer.

We made a great friend, who we learned a lot from. He will surely be missed. I know his family and friends will find peace in knowing what a phenomenal man he was and what a positive influence he had on everyone he met.

My heart goes out to your loved ones.

Que descansas en paz, Bill.

Alondra - Friend - February 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Thank you Susan for your nice words. I didn't realize that your Mom was gone too. I'm sorry to hear that.
Nancy

Nancy Potter - September 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry about your Dad. Seems all our parents are gone now. I remember so well playing at your house with Jayne McClendon.

Susan Cooper Gammon - Huntersville , NC - Classmate of Nancy-1970 - September 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ My condolences to all of you on Mr. Marshall's passing. I have fond memories of both he and your mother, their quiet presence, their intellect and their support for Oak Ridge activities. Such avid swimmers! Both he and your mother were always very sweet to me. Best regards, Brenda

Brenda Wilson - Orange, VA - Oak Ridge native - September 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Thank you Bob, Tom and Claudia, Tracy, Dave and Mary, and Jane for your nice comments about our Dad. He loved living in Oak Ridge and working at ORNL, and he was very fortunate to have friends and colleagues who thought so highly of him. Nancy and Bill, Bill Marshall's children

Nancy Potter - Athens, GA - daughter - August 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Nancy, Bill and Family,

Bill Marshall will be greatly missed not only by his colleagues at ORNL but by many others around the world. I had the privilege of working close to Bill for over twenty years in the Reactor Chemistry and Chemistry divisions at ORNL. He made outstanding pioneering contributions in high temperature aqueous chemistry, especially in measurements of the electrical conductance of aqueous solutions at extremes of temperature and pressure. His work is widely recognized world wide for its impact on physical chemistry, reactor coolant and steam generator technology, and basic geochemistry. His work helped establish ORNL as a world leader in this field, and initiated a broad research program in this area by many others to follow. Bill loved research, travel, and communication, all of which he did with his usual high level of enthusiasm and energy.

Indeed we will miss Bill and you have our sincere sympathy,
Bob and Pat Mesmer.

Robert Mesmer - Loudon, TN - Colleague - August 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Nancy, Bill, and Family,
We wish to extend our heartfelt condolences to you and your family on the death of your father. Few people have achieved the position of respect and high esteem which he enjoyed for so many years in this community. His absence will be felt for a long time to come.
We had the privilege of meeting your mother and father almost thirty years ago while swimming laps at the outdoor pool. Over the years we spent countless hours sharing stories about family and work. Bill was a man who had a wide range of interests and could speak with authority on almost any topic. Bill was a perfect southern gentleman who never met a stranger. He always went out of his way to make everyone feel welcome. His passion for swimming led to his work to spearhead the effort to keep the outdoor swimming pool in its current configuration so that it could continue to be enjoyed by everyone in this community.
We feel blessed to have had the privilege of knowing your remarkable father. Bill and Joanne will always live in our memory.
Affectionately,
Tom and Claudia Raudorf

Tom and Claudia Raudorf - Oak Ridge , TN - Friend - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Such a sweet person who will be missed! He would visit me when he would come out to the lab the last few years. He would just talk and talk.

Tracy Housewright - Knoxville, TN - Friend - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Bill, Nancy and members of Bill Marshall's family,

Your Father was a great scientist and an inspiration to many worldwide. He was a unique individual who will be sorely missed.

Dave And Mary Wesolowski

Dave and Mary Wesolowski - Kingston, TN - colleague - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Nancy, I am so sorry to hear of your father's death. Praying for all of you in this time.

Jane Worthington Vaughan - Cleveland, TN - Classmate of Nancy/ORHS Class 70 - August 27, 2013 at 12:00

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