



## Charles Keim

June 1, 1932 - June 22, 2011

On June 22, 2011, in Corvallis, surrounded by treasures he had collected around the world, our beloved cousin, friend and mentor, Charles "Bruce" Keim, departed this life for his next great adventure.

Bruce, as he preferred to be called, was born on June 1, 1932, in Lincoln, Neb., to Paul and Marjorie Keim. He had a brother, Russell, who preceded him in death.

He is survived by his brothers-in-law and sisters-in law, M. Teresa Kendrew, Robert and Isabel Mulcrone, Larry and Hope Holloway, Carole G. Keim, Alfonso and Eleanor Gonzalez; numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and cousins, including one, Adeline Marie, born on June 16, 2011, to whom he was introduced before he left this world.

Before moving to Corvallis in 2003, Bruce was a resident of Pinole, Calif., for more than 35 years, and of the San Francisco Bay Area for more than 50 years.

Bruce spent the majority of his adult life with the love of his life and wife, Ermila "Mel" Keim, in Pinole. They shared a life and love of travel and exploration around the globe. Before marrying his beloved Mel, Bruce attended and graduated from El Cerrito High School, Contra Costa College and San Francisco State University.

Bruce joined the U.S. Army, and rose to the rank of Sergeant Major before his retirement. He continued working with reservists as a civilian advisor, making many lifelong friends in the process.

He also worked for Pan American World Airways for more than 10 years, and later owned a travel agency with his wife, Mel, who preceded him in death. His greatest love was traveling the world, bringing back great memories, stories and treasures to share with everyone.

He had been completely around the world more than three times, and had visited every continent except Antarctica. He had visited every state and U.S. territory except Guam, and wherever he went, he made new friends with whom he kept in touch for many years.

Bruce was a member of the Berkeley Breakfast Club and the Commonwealth Club of California, and was very active in Rotary International, in which he was a past president of both the San Pablo, Calif., club and the Philomath club.

Bruce is also remembered by a special group of young people, an extended family of young adults who enriched his life through their participation in the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship Program, and through their continued contact with him upon returning to their homes. They well represent the world, from Germany, France, Italy, Hong Kong, England, Colombia, Guatemala, Brazil and Korea.

After moving to Corvallis, Bruce took great delight in attending and celebrating the numerous sporting activities of the children, Christa, Sami, J.J. and Hannah, and of his cousins, Will and Donna Keim.

A memorial service will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, July 1, at Stoneybrook Assisted Living Center, 4650 S.W. Hollyhock Circle, Corvallis, for his Oregon friends. An additional service will take place on a date to be announced, in San Pablo, where his remains will be interred in St. Joseph's Cemetery, next to those of his beloved wife.

Bruce requested that any donations be made either to the Rotary International Permanent Fund, in care of the Rotary Club of Philomath, Attn: Josh Kridt; or to his other favorite charity, the Ronald McDonald House Charities, RMHC of Oregon and Southwest Washington, Inc., 2620 N. Commercial St., Portland, OR 97227.