



## Charles Wicks

July 9, 1925 - July 29, 2010

Charles Edward Wicks of Corvallis died July 29, 2010 following a brief illness, at the age of 85.

Charles was born July 9, 1925 to Clarence Edward Wicks and Ruth Rawlings Wicks in Prineville, Oregon. Most of his youth was spent in Albany, and he graduated from Albany Union High School in 1942. He attended Willamette University for one year after high school, where he met his future wife, Miriam Day. After this first year, he entered the U.S. Coast Guard, serving in the Pacific from the Aleutian Islands to the Philippines from 1943 to 1946.

After completing his military service, he returned to Oregon State University. In 1948, Charles and Miriam were married in San Francisco. He earned his B.S. (Chemical Engineering) in 1950 from OSU, his M.S. (1952) and Ph.D. (1954) from Carnegie Institute of Technology. While an undergraduate at Oregon State University, he was very active in the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He also won his varsity letter on the OSU swimming team and third prize in the National AIChE student design contest.

Upon graduating from Carnegie Tech in 1954, he joined Oregon State University Chemical Engineering Department. He served as Department Head from 1970 to 1987. As a professor at Oregon State University, "Doc" was beloved as a teacher. He was recognized for excellence in teaching and advising and received many awards, including three Carter Awards, the Dar Reese Excellence in Advising Award, and the OSU Alumni Award for Outstanding Teacher. In fact, you would be hard pressed to attend an OSU

alumni function without finding someone who was pulled through school with Doc's assistance. He was also a life-long Beaver fan, being well remembered for his passion during basketball and football games. In fact one of his last comments to his son Ken was "once a Beaver, always a Beaver".

He was nationally and internationally recognized in the area of mass transfer operations, and was the author or co-author of four engineering textbooks; one of these – "Fundamentals of Momentum, Heat and Mass Transfer" – has had five editions and has been published in at least six languages. This led to him acting as a visiting professor in China, Malaysia and Mexico during the latter portion of his teaching career. He received the Distinguished Alumni Citation from Willamette University in 1992 and was named to the OSU Engineering Hall of Fame in 1999. He was always interested in and concerned for the students at Oregon State, serving as advisor to various student organizations, including the student chapter of AIChE, and Blue Key. He also served his fraternity, Phi Delta Theta, serving in many roles, concluding as their international president. He received his fraternity's highest award, the Legion of Honor, for his contributions to international education. He was an active member of the United Methodist Church and the Corvallis Masonic Lodge No. 14. He also served in many volunteer positions for the Corvallis-Benton County Library.

Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Miriam Day Wicks, twin sons Roger and his wife Cecile of Colonial Heights, Virginia; Kenneth and his wife Carol Wenk of Westfield, New Jersey; daughter, Julie Giltner and her husband Todd of Puyallup, Washington; grandchildren (Jon, Allison, Megan, Kevin, Sean, Katie and Alex), and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brothers Richard and Clarence.

The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be sent to OSU Foundation, 850 SW 35th St., Corvallis, OR 97333. A celebration of Charles' life will be held on 7:00 pm on September 17th at the LaSells Stewart Center at OSU.



# Tribute Wall

RM

“ *It is with great sadness that I learned of the passing of Dr Charles Wicks. Dr Wicks was a treasured teacher and advisor to me as a Chem Engr student at OSU (BS, 1955; MS, 1958). I will be eternally grateful for his support and encouragement in my quest for graduate education. He wrote an endorsement which allowed me to complete a doctorate program at the Univ of Minnesota (1962). His mentorship unquestionably paved the way for what I consider to be a successful career and certainly a happy life. Miriam and Wicks family are in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Richard L Miller** - August 17, 2010 at 04:19 PM

KW

“ *On behalf of my mother, brother and sister I want to thank you all for the kind words. I was lucky enough to have been taught and advised by my Dad, but all of us will always be blessed by a lifetime of learning from this amazing man.*

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**Ken Wicks** - August 14, 2010 at 12:30 AM

RT

“ I was one of Dr. Wicks' many Blue Key members. His care, warmth and humor was refreshing, and whenever I stopped into the Chemical Engineering Building office to see him, he made me feel like my visit was the most important thing on his calendar. Although I am an electrical engineer, Chuck was one of my treasured mentors and career counselors during my two senior years.

*Thermodynamics and the textbook that he co-wrote for fluid dynamics (Fundamentals of Momentum, Heat and Mass Transfer) and can actually be applied to understand why Charles Wicks was such a great man. The First Law of Thermodynamics (paraphrasing) teaches us that the Energy given away to others by Doc Wicks can never be lost. Those of us blessed to receive it are in turn obligated to pass it along to others. His body and Mass may now be at rest, but the Energy that he gave eagerly during his lifetime, motivated those of us who were blessed to be his friends and students to be propelled with enough Momentum to set us on the right course for successful lives and careers. Godspeed, Chuck Wicks. You will be missed, but never forgotten.*

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**Roger Tipley** - August 10, 2010 at 03:07 PM

PW

“ As an OSU Chemical Engineering graduate (B.S. 1959, M.S. 1960) my life was impacted by Doctor Wicks. I remember one night we were having trouble with our assignment and we felt comfortable in calling him at home. He said "come on over" which we did. What a great professor. The world has lost a great man.

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**Pete Williams** - August 08, 2010 at 10:59 PM

CL

“ Although we attended the same church, I will always think of Chuck and the library and food. He (and Miriam) were big library supporters. They chaired many wonderful Staff Recognition Luncheons for the Corvallis Library Staff which I enjoyed so much. Chuck enjoyed chatting with the staff and ALWAYS had a smile on his face and a grateful heart. Chuck will be missed by me and many others.

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**Charlotte Lee** - August 08, 2010 at 05:53 PM

DB

“ We have lost a wonderful lodge brother.

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**David R. Beach** - August 08, 2010 at 11:10 AM

PK

“ Deepest sympathies to the family of one of my favorite OSU professors. Dr Wicks had such a sense of humor. My first memory of my professor is him telling us freshman that Disneyland was right next door (Bexell Hall-school of business) where all the classes were "Mickey Mouse". He will be missed.

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**paula kwong** - August 05, 2010 at 11:29 PM

JW

“ Dear Miriam & Family,  
Sending you our heartfelt condolences. We know that he was not well for quite some time and now is no longer suffering. He was someone that we all remember fondly.  
Jeff, Roxann & Family

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**Jeff & Roxann Weger** - August 05, 2010 at 11:20 PM