



## Richard "Dick" Hugo Converse

September 18, 1925 - May 6, 2014

Born Sept. 18, 1925, in Greenwich, Connecticut, Dick lived his early childhood years in Japan, where his parents, Guy and Berthae Converse, worked for the YMCA. After his father's death in 1930, Dick and his mother left Japan to live in New York City, Tucson, and Whittier, California.

While pursuing a longtime interest in botany at University of California, Berkeley, Dick met Leona Reukema, who was to be his wife of 66 years.

After completing his doctorate in plant pathology at UC, Davis, Dick and Leona loaded their 1937 Packard and headed to the first of a series of work assignments in South Dakota, then Oklahoma, Maryland and finally, 47 years ago, Corvallis, where Dick worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture at Oregon State University.

Over the years Dick and Leona grew their family of three children, Paul, Frank and Nancy, and made many longtime friends around the country and around the world.

Dick's work took him to many countries, often accompanied by Leona. Speaking both Spanish and German helped his work in Germany, Mexico and Chile. He also worked with colleagues in Israel, India, Scotland and Australia.

After retiring in 1990, Dick took a great interest in volunteering as a teacher's assistant in various grade schools around town. His last and longest position was at Garfield Elementary. Here, over 10 years, he came to know many students and faculty in the dual language program.

Dick was preceded in death by his daughter, Nancy Roe; and his son, Paul Converse. He is survived by his wife, Leona; son, Frank; three grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

A family graveside service will be held at a later date.

Donations in his memory can be made to Benton Hospice Service, or to the Garfield Dual Language Program through the Corvallis Public Schools Foundation, 1555 S.W. 35th St., Corvallis, OR 97333.

# Tribute Wall

MH

“ *My deepest sympathy for your loss. He was kind, well loved by many, and a great spirit! I am happy to say that he brought a smile to my face every time I saw him. I wish you well and am sending you peaceful thoughts.*

*Sincerely, Marty Hernandez*

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**marty hernandez** - May 09, 2014 at 02:06 PM