



Richard S." Dick" Nichols

February 23, 1928 - February 19, 2016

Richard (Dick) Nichols, Corvallis, passed away in Philomath, February 19, 2016.

Richard, a 5th generation descendant of the Applegate, Miller and Huntington pioneer families, was born to Benjamin Hodge and Mary Huntington Nichols at Corvallis General Hospital. He attended Franklin Grade School, Corvallis Junior High School and graduating from Corvallis High School in 1945. He then attended Oregon State College between June 1945 and June 1949, where he was a member of Theta Chi fraternity, numerous honor societies, and played trombone in the OSU Band. He graduated with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering in 1949. He was elected to the OSU Engineering Hall of Fame in 1999.

Dick and Valerie Kerber were married on September 15, 1951 in Portland, OR. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Valerie, their 3 children, Kevin Nichols, Lanson Nichols, and Heather Grimm, sister in law Esther Nichols, and brother in law Rodney Kerber. In addition, he is survived by 12 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Bruce and one son Lindsey Marc Nichols.

Dick's first job was for the Corvallis Gazette Times as a paper boy. That was followed by distribution of special delivery mail for the U.S. Post Office, fire trails in Peavy Arboretum, and fire watch for the U.S. Forest Service. After graduation, he worked for General Electric Company in Schenectady, NY

between 1949-50 and 1952-57, and the US Army Signal Corps Research Laboratory at Ft. Monmouth, NJ from 1950-52. He spent the rest of his career between 1957 and 1994 with the Corvallis office of CH2M HILL.

Dick worked on a variety of projects and locations throughout his career. He began with an electrical system design for the Pasco, WA, Water Treatment Plant. Other clients included Beale AFB, Consumers Power, Occoquan Sewage Authority, Islands of Trinidad and Tobago, Grant County PUD, Cowlitz County PUD, Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Max light-rail system throughout Portland. He also wrote original and updated master electrical specifications for CH2M-HILL designs. He was a Registered Professional Engineer in Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, Colorado, Texas and Virginia.

Throughout his career he was heavily involved in the 360,000 member Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) reaching the level of Fellow in 1987. He held numerous positions, including the IEEE Industry Application Society (IAS) Treasurer, Secretary, Vice Chairman, and Chairman 1978-85, IEEE Board of Directors 1987-88, IEEE Foundation Director 1987-89, IEEE Vice President for Educational Activities 1990-91, IEEE Awards Board Chairman 1998-99, IEEE Life Member Committee Vice Chairman 2002-03, IEEE Fellow Program advisory committees 2004-08. He was a member of many IEEE executive boards, committees, subcommittees, and advisory groups 1978-2008. He received the following IEEE Awards, IEEE Centennial Medal, 1984, IAS Distinguished Service Award, 1989, EAB Meritorious Service Award, 1994, and IEEE Millennium Medal, 2000.

Dick and his wife enjoyed their world travels to Hawaii, Russia, Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, Italy, France, Mexico, Venezuela, Spain, Greece, Switzerland, Singapore, Hong Kong and numerous others. He also had a love of fine art, particularly the work of Michael Gibbons, and the Oregon Coast. His favorite hobbies included gardening, reading, woodworking and eating ice cream.

Services and a reception will be held at 11:00 AM, Thursday, February 25th at

NW Hills Community Church, 3300 NW Walnut Blvd, Corvallis, OR. Viewing will take place an hour before the service starting at 10:00 AM. Dick will be laid to rest at Crystal Lake Cemetery in Corvallis.

Memorial contributions can be made at the memorial service for The Boy Scouts of America, Corvallis Troop 3, sent in care of McHenry Funeral Home, 206 NW 5th St, Corvallis, OR 97330.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **25**. 10:00 AM (PT)

Northwest Hills Community Church
3300 NW Walnut Blvd
Corvallis, OR 97330

Funeral Service

FEB **25**. 11:00 AM (PT)

Northwest Hills Community Church
3300 NW Walnut Blvd
Corvallis, OR 97330

Tribute Wall

LP

“ Dick was my very close friend and mentor from the time I joined CH2MHill in 1978 until I retired in 2006. We shared many experiences including projects in Trinidad, West Indies, Alexandria, Egypt and many others in many other countries. Anyone who has worked with Dick will remember his quiet and steady support as well as his friendship. I will miss him greatly. The world is a poorer place without him in it. Goodbye old friend!!

Larry K. Henderson, PE

Larry K. Henderson, P.E. - February 24, 2016 at 01:27 PM