



Robert Edward Lyle

January 26, 1926 - March 20, 2011

Robert Edward Lyle, Jr. died on Sunday March 20 at the age of 85 after a long illness. He was born on January 26, 1926 in Atlanta, Georgia to the Reverend Robert E. Lyle, Sr. and Adeline Cason Lyle who preceded him in death.. He was married to Dr. Gloria Gilbert Lyle from 1947 until her death in 1996. He was educated at Oxford College and Emory University with a B.A. in Chemistry 1945 and a Master of Science degree in Chemistry 1947. He attended graduate school at the University of Wisconsin where he received his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry in 1949. He would remain a staunch "Badger" football fan for his entire life. He had a long academic career starting as an Assistant Professor with Oberlin College in Ohio 1949-1951; Assistant Professor 1951-1953; Associate Professor 1953-1957 and full Professor of Chemistry at the University of New Hampshire, Durham 1957-1976. He served as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Chemistry, The University of North Texas, Denton 1977-1979. In 1979 he became Vice President of the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at Southwest Research Institute where he remained until his retirement in 1991. During his retirement he served as Vice President of GRL Consultants 1992-2007. Dr. Lyle was a Visiting Professor at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville 1973-74 and the University of Grenoble, France 1976. He also was a Special Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard University and Oxford University, England 1965-66. He served as an Adjunct Professor at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME 1975-79 and the University of Texas at San Antonio

1985-. Dr. Lyle served on the Editorial Board of Index Chemicus and was editor of the Alpha Chi Sigma publication, The Hexagon, for several years. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Chi Sigma, Sigma Xi, and The Royal Society of Chemistry. He was a sixty plus year member of the American Chemical Society where he served on the Nominations and Elections Committee; Publications Committee; Ad hoc Committee for Society Action, Lecturer and Councilor. He worked as a Visiting Scientist and for the College Chemistry Consultants Service of the ACS Division of Chemical Education and as Chairman, Chairman-elect, Board of Directors and as Director of Operation Interface 1971 of the ACS Northeastern Section. He served on the National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council Committee for NSF Postdoctoral Fellowships 1961-64. He was a member of the San Antonio Local Section of the ACS where he established the Dr. Gloria G. Lyle Memorial Scholarship Fund. Dr. Lyle was the recipient of the Massachusetts Institute of Chemists, Section of American Institute of Chemists, Honor Scroll 1971 and the Harry and Carol Mosher Award 1986. Dr. Lyle had many students of whom he was extremely proud. They ranged from high school teachers to industrial chemists to university professors to a university president and a president of the American Chemical Society. He published over 100 papers in collaboration with his students and was the holder of several patents. He always referred to his students as "my kids" and the interaction with them was what he missed most when he left teaching. Robert Lyle is survived by his second wife, Anne Kohl Lyle of San Antonio; a cousin, Amanda Beason-Clair, of Atlanta; sister-in-law, Pauline Kohl of San Antonio; and a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Warren and Judith Kohl of Eliot, ME. He was described by many as being the "perfect southern gentleman". He had an infectious smile and a mischievous twinkle in his eye. He treated everyone as equals, was kind, generous, and loving, He will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, March 25, 2011 at University United Methodist Church, 5084 De Zavala, San Antonio 78249. Services will be followed by a reception in the John Wesley

Room at the church. Burial will be in Atlanta, GA. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the University United Methodist Church at the above address or to the Dr. Gloria G. and Dr. Robert E. Lyle Endowed Professorship of the University of New Hampshire. Donations should be sent to the University of New Hampshire Foundation, 9 Edgewood Road, Elliott Alumni Center, Durham, NH 03824.

Tribute Wall

GW

“ Dear Ann,

Please accept our heartfelt condolences. We know the last few years have been rough as Bob's health declined.

When Bob and Gloria departed UNH for Texas in the mid-70's, I was the young pup who took up his position. They were very big sho

Gary & Donna Weisman - April 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ Hello Robert we called him Robert; who gave you permission to leave? You have been a delight in our lives, Traudl, Renee & Eric. So caring and loving; we undoubtely will miss you, but keep you alive in our hearts. You know that they don't make people

Traudl Taylor - April 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PJ

“ I was so sorry to hear of Bob's passing. The world has lost a great chemist, an inspiring and dedicated teacher, and most of all, a wonderful human being. I will always treasure the memories of my interactions with him at the University of New Hampshire

Peter A. Jacobi - April 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RT

“ "Uncle Bob" brought such sunshine and smiles to my Brother and I as we each separately made our way through Air Force Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base. For me in particular, I will never forget Thanksgiving 1998 when Anne and "Uncle Bob" picked

Renee Taylor - April 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ Anne- Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers. Please know you can call us anytime if you need anything.

Darrel and Sandy Johnston - March 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Anne,
I am so sorry to hear that the world has lost Bob Lyle. I know the angels are rejoicing. I worked with him on the Hexagon magazine and he was one of the nicest people I had ever worked with and truly one of my favorite people on earth! He made ever

Jody Toth - March 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ Dear Anne,

Lori and I are deeply saddened at the news of the passing of Bob. He left his mark on UNH Chemistry and all of us who had the privilege of knowing him. He will be missed by all of us.

Denny Chasteen and Lori Lavac

Dennis Chasteen & Lori Lavac - March 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Anne,
Please accept our deepest sympathies. We are so grateful to you and Bob for the influence you had on us during our small group at UUMC. Bob was so kind and invested so much of himself in others. We are praying for you and were thankful to have s

Dan and Stacey French - March 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ I offer my sincere condolences on this occasion. I had know Bob for a number of years though the local section of the American Chemical Society ACS and through Southwest Research Institute. We intend to continue the Gloria Lyle Scholarship which he star

E. Robert Fanick - March 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

IL

“ Dear Anne:
My deepest condolences to you. I will never forget Dr. Lyle - he was the "perfect southern gentleman" and always had a smile on his face. May God give you the strength at this difficult time.
Love,
Irene Lewis

Irene Lewis - March 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Anne--I was so sorry to hear of Dr. Lyle's passing, but I'll always remember the kind gentleman with a smile on his face. What a smile! I'm so glad you brought him to some of our luncheons, since that was our only chance to see him since his retirement. T

Billie Ford - March 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Anne,
Bob was one of the most influential people in my life. He was a superb teacher, a caring mentor and a good friend. You are both in my thought and prayers.
- John LaMattina

John LaMattina - March 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Anne -- Our thoughts & prayers are with you. Yes, he did have a mischievous smile & a twinkle in his eyes -- both so memorable! We have very fond memories of both of you. Mary & Joe Skye

Mary & Joe Skye - March 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Dear Anne,
My deepest sympathies as you grieve the loss of Bob. I remember him well from his time at UNT. He was a marvelous scholar, adept administrator and a wonderful human being that dedicated his life to teaching and research and building strong hu

jean schaaake - March 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Dear Anne: My condolences on your loss. Bob was my post-doctoral mentor for two years. I am so grateful to him for his guidance and for leading me in my career path. I am just one of the many lives that he touched. He will always be remembered.

Joseph Saavedra - March 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ I will always be grateful to Dr. Lyle for hiring me at SwRI--my first and only real job. Rest in peace Dr. Lyle.

Kevin Shannon - March 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM