



Leo H Williams

March 4, 2014

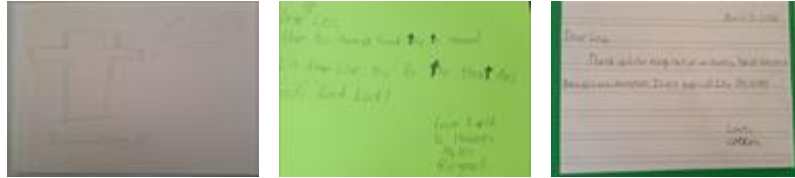
Williams, Leo H. age 88, of Chaska and Key Largo, FL, passed away into the West as the sun rose over the brilliant turquoise waters of Key Largo, FL on March 4, 2014. He was a devoted, loving husband, a caring and compassionate father and grandfather, a devout Catholic, an avid sailor, a pilot, a keen fisherman, an enthusiastic tennis player, a member of Hank's Hackers golf group and an all-around nice guy. A US Naval veteran serving in the Pacific Theater during WWII, seeing action in the Battle of Leyte Gulf and Okinawa. Was also a part of Operation Crossroads during the Bikini Atom Bomb Tests and also served in the Korean Conflict. A graduate of St. Thomas University, he founded Office Interiors Inc., a space and design company for large corporations with offices nationwide. He served as president of the Health & Tennis Club at the Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo, FL and was a longtime member of the Lake City Yacht Club. Preceded in death by his parents, Harry J. Williams and Inez Finnerty Williams. Survived by loving wife of 63 years, Marilyn; daughter, Catherine (Victor) Kohman; sons, Thomas (Carrie), Joseph, Mark (Gayle) and Michael (Wendy); grandsons, Simon, Benjamin and Sammy Williams; step- granddaughter, Krystal (Wil) Riesgaard; step-grandsons, Kyle and Matt Heuer and step-great-grandsons, Colton, Myles, Lucas, Mason Riesgaard; brother, James and sister, Renee Samuelson; many nieces & nephews. A true hearted and humble man with a great sense of humor and a friend to nearly everyone he met. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to St. Justin the Martyr Catholic Church, 105500

Overseas Highway, Key Largo, FL 33037. Mass of Christian Burial Thursday, March 13, 11 AM at St. Victoria Catholic Church, 8228 Victoria Dr., Victoria, MN. Visitation one hour prior to Mass at the church and also Wednesday, March 12, 4-7 PM at: www.Washburn-McReavy.com Werness Brothers Chapel 2300 W Old Shakopee Rd 952-884-8145

Tribute Wall

CK

“ 3 files added to the album *Family Tributes*



Catherine Kohman - March 25, 2014 at 08:23 PM

CK

“ *A forever love story...*

From his wife, Marilyn:

I met the love of my live 64 years ago on a blind date. It was a hay ride with another couple. I thought he was the cutest boy I ever met. The next day I hoped he would call me again and he did. That began our journey together. We raised five wonderful children who meant the world to us. We would go on road trips and he would never get upset with the chaos in the car while I would have a temper tantrum. He loved going to the cottage and fishing with my dad. We did everything together, sailing, golf and tennis. While we were both working we managed to have lunch together almost every day. He was the most Godly man I ever met and there will never be another like him.

Catherine Kohman - March 25, 2014 at 08:15 PM

“ These are reflections from his children:

From his son, Joe:

If Leo was a TV personality he would have been a composite of Ward Cleaver, Andy Griffith and Fred MacMurray. He took us boys to see Clancy the Cop, Bozo the Clown, Frankenstein movies and the Circus. Taught us to shoot and fish, ski, play football, baseball, tennis and drive manual transmissions, all with his infamous patience. He liked to come up to my cabin and go fishing and help with all the associated work, as he did at the cottage. Dad was a very intelligent, well read man with a subtle, dry sense of humor. Dad was a devoted son who regularly visited his mother and took the best care possible of her. I know I will never be as great a man as he was, but inspires me to try.

From his daughter, Catherine:

When I had to decide where to go to college, Dad and I scouted St. Catherine's in St. Paul and Marquette University. Since he raised me to cherish books, he suggested St. Cate's librarian program, but I went to Marquette instead, where I studied archaeology. But I wasn't destined to be a female Indiana Jones, and spent years doing clerical work. Then after a cross-country move, I followed Dad's advice to be a librarian. Twenty-two years later, I'm still a librarian, a job that I love. It was Mom and Dad's faith in me that led me to become a published writer. And when I look for inspiration for a quiet but strong hero with a dry sense of humor, he's right in front of me. Thanks, Dad!

From his son, Mark:

I am proud to say Leo was my father. I was the luckiest kid in the world to have him as my Dad. He was everything you could want in a dad. He was kind, smart, gentle, patient, and fascinating. Words cannot do justice to describe my respect for my dad and the way he lived his life. He inspired me. My Dad was the greatest father, husband, grandfather and friend you could imagine. The world is a better place today because of him. I could only hope to be half the

Dad that he was.

From his son, Mike:

To me, Dad was a man of exceptional courage and ability, admired for his braveness, noble qualities and fortitude. The dictionary shortens this to one word, Hero. That's what my Dad is to me. Along with his life, his faith instilled in him qualities such as kindness, compassion, generosity, humility and patience. With the latter, the Lord put him to the test with a daughter and four boys. He passed that test with flying colors. In all those years of broken windows, arguments, fights and cross country trips with the 7 of us crammed into the Country Squire, he never lost his temper. He never lashed out with anger. He was an island of serenity in a stormy sea.

Thanks Dad for teaching me how to throw a ball, how to catch, run, jump and climb. Thanks for all the football games in the front yard, thanks for the tree house and thanks for all the things we did.

Thanks for teaching me right from wrong. Thanks for being my Dad.

From his son, Tom:

I think the most important thing in a boy's life is for his Dad to be proud of him. I know that was true in my case, when I built model airplanes as a kid, the moment I finished one, the first thing I did was show it to my Dad. That was just the beginning. As you grow older, each accomplishment becomes another opportunity to gain Dad's approval. The desire to make your Dad proud of you never subsides. Why is that? I think the answer lies with your Dad himself. My Dad was my absolute Hero and I couldn't have been prouder of him. I wanted to be just like him. It's as if the prouder he was of me, the more like him I became. Since Dad's passing I have committed myself to be a better person. Why? Because Dad is still by my side and I want to make him proud.

Catherine Kohman - March 25, 2014 at 08:13 PM

CK

“ My favorite author, JRR Tolkien, a devout Catholic, wrote these lovely words about our journey Into the West:

“And the ship went out into the High Sea and passed into the West, until at last on a night of rain Frodo smelled a sweet fragrance on the air and heard the sound of singing that came over the water. And then it seemed to him that as in his dream in the house of Bombadil, the grey rain-curtain turned all to silver glass and was rolled back, and he beheld white shores and beyond them a far green country under a swift sunrise.”

In the same book, Gandalf the White says this about passing out over the sea:

“I will not say, do not weep, for not all tears are an evil.”

And finally, when King Elessar must part from his beloved wife, Arwen:

"In sorrow we must go, but not in despair. Behold! we are not bound for ever to the circles of the world, and beyond them is more than memory."

JRR Tolkien, The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King

Your loving daughter, Catherine

Catherine Kohman - March 18, 2014 at 03:52 PM

SR

“ Marilyn, Cathy, Tommy, Joey, Mark & Michael, Please accept my sincere & heart felt sympathy on the loss of a wonderful husband & father. Even though the miles & years have separated us I think of all of you along with Uncle Jim's family too. I remember Uncle Leo always with a smile on his face the few times we were back to visit you & when all of you came to California to visit us. I pray that you aunt Marilyn & my 5 cousins as you continue your journey here on earth be comforted by the good lord daily. May you always find joy & happiness. Love to all,
Susan.

Susan Samuelson Rupert - March 17, 2014 at 12:13 AM

BR

“ too many memories to mention here, times out at our beloved cottage and joking with "leon". one of my standout memories was when leo let me (his nephew butch) take over the controls of his plane flying over lake minnetonka. we will miss 'the quiet man' very much, a devoted, loving family man. butch and priscilla reed

butch reed - March 13, 2014 at 11:28 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Leo H Williams.



March 12, 2014 at 10:37 AM

AN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Alan Naumann - March 12, 2014 at 12:22 AM