



Roger Krempel

October 8, 1926 - January 25, 2012

Roger E. Krempel of Fort Collins, Colorado died Wednesday, January 25th at Pathways Hospice McKee Medical Center in Loveland, Colorado. Roger was in his 86th year and passed peacefully after living for decades with cardiac illness and complications. Roger was born in Waukesha, Wisconsin to Henry and Clara Krempel on October 8th, 1926. He was the youngest of five siblings, Kenneth, Arnold, Arlene and Harold. Roger helped work the family dairy and vegetable farm from an early age. He started a lifelong love of horses working the horse drawn plow and cultivator. He and his father sold vegetables in German and Polish neighborhoods (and languages) in Milwaukee. He collected arrowheads, played softball, rebuilt cars and pin-spotted at the bowling alley. He also played the harmonica for pleasure and bass violin professionally in an old-time dance band, all before he graduated from Waukesha High School in 1944. Roger enlisted in the US Army upon graduating from high school. The army sent him to Ripon College at age 17 and to Stanford University at age 18. He re-enlisted at the end of WWII and was honorably discharged from Camp Campbell, Kentucky in 1946. He continued his college education at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and graduated in 1950 with a B.S. in civil engineering. He was a licensed land surveyor in Wisconsin and a registered professional engineer [PE] in both Wisconsin and Colorado. He was a Life Member of APWA; ASCE; AWWA and NSPE. Roger spent four decades as a public servant. He began in Manitowoc, WI designing the airport and serving as its project engineer. He also designed concrete pavements and a major storm-water system. In 1951 Roger began employment with the City of Janesville, WI, he was later promoted to City Engineer and then to Director of Public Works. All of the engineering to accommodate the almost double growth of Janesville, 1951-1975, was done with city staff; city planning, engineering and traffic, water and wastewater, streets and transportation, parks and forestry. Beginning in 1975 Roger worked for the City of Fort Collins, CO as Director of Water and Wastewater, then Public Works, and lastly Natural Resources. He organized the city's Storm Water Utility and established the Transportation Utility fee before retiring January 1, 1989. While working for the City of Fort Collins, Roger delivered more than 50 professional presentations on a variety of subjects covering public works management, water resources, engineering, project management, financing infrastructure, quality

improvement, five-year capital planning and the environment. Twenty-four of these were published in periodicals and magazines. Sixteen of these were made at five universities across the nation. More than twenty-five papers were presented at national and regional conferences and three internationally. He developed numerous workshops and seminars for the University of Wisconsin Engineering and Professional Development Department and presented many there and elsewhere for a period of thirty years. He co-authored a book on public works in Colorado. He presented a guest lecture in 1989 when The University of Wisconsin College of Engineering awarded him a University of Wisconsin Distinguished Service Citation. In 1995 Roger served on the faculty of Colorado State University International School for Water Resources offering a 12-week course on Water Treatment and Administration for Central Asian countries. Roger had a walnut forest of awards and citations. Roger was a passionate genealogist, historian and storyteller. After his retirement he wrote many stories of his early life on the farm. He traveled the United States and Europe tracking down his ancestry. He enjoyed visiting and photographing scenic and historic places from Florida to Alaska, and coast to coast. He enjoyed many of the Wildlife Refuges and National Parks, especially Yellowstone and Grand Teton, returning often. He married Shirley Ann Gray in 1948 and they had three children, four grandchildren and one great granddaughter. Roger is survived by his wife Shirley and children; John Krempel and wife Susan Wirch in MT, Sara Krempel in OR, Peter Krempel and wife Tamara in WI; four grandchildren: Aven Julye and husband Isaak in ID, Zane Krempel in MT, Karl Krempel and wife Amber in MT and Kate Krempel in WI, one great-grandchild, Ella Julye in ID, four nephews in WI; Randy (Trudy) Krempel, Mark Krempel and wife, Nick (Vicki) Leifeld, David (JoAnne) Krempel. He was preceded in death by his parents, four siblings and their three spouses, one niece and two nephews. A service was held at Pathways Hospice at McKee Medical Center. Cremation has taken place and no visitation is scheduled. A private service will be held with the family at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to Pathways Hospice at McKee, 305 Carpenter Road, Fort Collins, CO 80525; the American Public Works Association Historical Society, P.O. Box 802-296, Kansas City, MO 64180-2296 or the charity of your choice

Comments



“ After reading Roger's obituary, I wish I had known him better. I have always thought of him as the "last of the good guys," (city employees). I wrote him a letter once, early 1980s, complaining of no water pressure on our farm--that when a veterinarian came to pull a backward calf, it took 5 min for me to fill a bucket of warm water and to fill my wash machine, it took 20 min. He wrote a letter back, a classic in humor , telling me to take our pickuip to the river and filling 2 5-gallon buckets.....It was so funny, I believe I still have it.
God bless Roger Krempel.

Rose Brinks - January 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I am deeply saddened to learn of Roger's passing. Roger interviewed me (twice) for my first position working in the lab at the City of Fort Collins. He also took the time to call me at home with that much needed job offer. Thank you Roger for all of the opportunities you provided to me and for others to succeed. Thanks for being a risk-taker. And thank you Roger for all of the good you did in this world. ...Keith

Keith Elmund - January 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ In a two year period in the late 70's, Roger hired Bob Smith, Dennis Bode, Curt Miller, Mike Smith and I for the City of Fort Collins Utilities. All of us worked for the City for 30 years give or take. Dennis Bode is the last who will retire next month. I can think of no other individual who profoundly and positively influenced Fort Collins Utilities more than Roger. His legacy of public service will last for generations. I am forever grateful that Roger gave me the opportunity to work for Fort Collins. - Jim Hibbard

Jim Hibbard - January 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I worked in the Public Works Dept under Roger at the City of Fort Collins. He always treated me with respect. I admired him and I appreciated his advice. He helped start the Natural Resources Department, which I later became a part of as the Manager of the Natural Areas Program after Roger retired. He made a difference in this world and I valued him as a mentor.

Shirley, it has been a very long time since I have seen you or Roger. I'm very sorry for you, and I will be thinking of you. I hope our paths will cross again.

Mark Sears - January 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I have fond memories of Roger. He hired me in 1978 to work at the City of Fort Collins Water Department, along with several others during that era. His professionalism, gentle guidance and caring approach to employees helped launch long-time careers for me and others. I feel very fortunate to have known Roger and appreciate his role in my career. My sympathies to Roger's family.

Dennis Bode - January 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I had the great honor of meeting Roger during the last part of his life. I learned from his family what an amazing, kind, intelligent man he was. He has given so much to our community and to all those who had the opportunity to know him. Sincerely,
Angie Joseph

Angie Joseph - January 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Shirley, I was saddened to hear of Roger's death. He will be greatly missed. He worked tirelessly on so many things -- it was tough keeping up with him. I particularly liked the annual report he produced for Pubic Works and Water Utilities, which are on file with the Clerk's office. I won't ever forget when he drove himself to the hospital when he had his heart attack -- didn't say a word! We got good at moving too. First from the Service Center, then new City Hall and finally to Howes Street. I enjoyed reading the obituary and learning so much about his younger years. My prayers are with you and the family.

Shirley Bruns - January 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM