



Karl William Robert Johnson

MAR 20, 1924 - MAR 6, 2014



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 4



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Karl William Robert Johnson, 89, of Hilo, HI, passed away on Thursday, March 6, 2014 at his residence. He was born in Des Moines, Iowa on March 20, 1924. He was an Inorganic Chemist for Los Alamos National Laboratory. He was a member of Christ Lutheran Church, American Chemical Society, American Vacuum Society, and Troop Leader for the Boy Scouts of America Troop 193. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy during WWII. A memorial service will take place on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 10 am at Christ Lutheran Church (595 Kapiolani St., Hilo); a visitation will follow from 11 am to 12 noon. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Hospice of Hilo. He is survived by 2 daughters, Kay (Brian) Newnam of Los Alamos, NM and Sally (Jeff) Bustamante of Moriarty, NM; sister, Lois Reeves of Topeka, KS; brother, Vaughn Johnson of Pinto Ranch, Montana; 5 grandchildren; 4 great grandchildren.



Tribute Wall

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BO

Bobie posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. At times like I find great comfort in God's word. "Do not be amazed at this for the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hewe his voice and come out."

March 13 at 12:24 AM

SS

Shelly Sabate lit a candle in honor of Karl.

Karl Johnson a friend and neighbor. Mr. J, I would refer to him the most interesting, smart, knowledgeable and down to earth kind of guy. He was a caring and big hearted person. I'm gonna miss him a lot and all those interesting and wonderful stories that he told of his life growing up. It's gonna be quiet, strange and weird when I have to pass his door and he is not there. RIP Mr. J.Aloha Oe , A hui hou kakou,Shelly Sabate



March 12 at 8:20 AM



Barton L .St.Armand lit a candle in honor of Karl.



March 8 at 10:58 AM



Barton L .St.Armand March 8 at 12:00 PM

Karl was the straightest of " straight arrows." He had a remarkable life as a young Midwesterner, a U.S. Navy diver in WWII, and a distinguished scientist at Los Alamos in the post-war period. I knew him only a little time, but he made a tremendous impact on my consciousness and I regarded him as a firm and understanding friend, full of wonderful stories and a living history of some of the most interesting moments in the 20th century, yet also still fully aware, contemporary and vital in the 21st. I am sorry that he did not live to celebrate with vibrant gusto his 90th birthday, but I also know from my talks with him at the end that " nothing became his life like his leaving of it," and that he was serenely prepared---- in his own very deliberate, honest and directly authentic way-- to meet " face to face" the Jesus Christ who was his life-long spiritual companion and constant counsellor in good times and in bad. He told me he had absolutely no regrets about leaving this world, and that in spite of some rough patches in his earthly existence, that if he were given the chance and could somehow miraculously live his life over again, he would journey on exactly as he had, and not change a single thing. Few of us can say this with such equanimity, thoughtfulness and settled acceptance at the end of our own pilgrimage through this world of mingled sunshine and shadow. Add to this his subtle, understated, characteristically Mid-Western humor, his courage in speaking out about what he believed in, and also his readiness to acting upon his convictions with no holds barred, as well as his liberal gift for friendship and hearty enjoyment of the good things of life, and two apt quotations from Shakespeare come to mind: that indeed " Here was a Man," and that with that man, " Ripeness is all." Beyond this, however, Karl Johnson was an archetypal Man of Faith--- and I trust that the stamina of Faith that sustained him in life now has earned him --- not simply a well- earned rest, for his restless spirit and ever-enquiring mind were in themselves too restless to ever abide a complete cessation of activity--- but a continuing quest for the essence of the ideal. Add I cannot fail to augment his belief with my own that Karl Johnson is now enjoying the Gospel fulfillment of the wonderful gift of being human that we were privileged to have him share with us so generously--- and so abundantly .



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Karl by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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