



## Bob H. Keller

August 21, 1934 - February 26, 2017

Robert H. Keller of Bellingham died on February 26, 2017 at Hospice House. Born in Portland, he grew up in Olympia and Tacoma where he worked as a truck driver while attending the University of Puget Sound. Bob married Kathleen Jones in 1965. Graduate study at the University of Chicago brought a Ph.D. in church history.

His campus career moved from Olympic College in Bremerton to Western, where he taught primarily at Fairhaven College, also in History and Huxley College. Fairhaven allowed classes ranging from the Grand Canyon, Native American history, and basic mountaineering, to Supreme Court history, and death and dying. In 1980 he received Western's Distinguished Teaching Award.

Following divorce from Kathleen in 1977, he married Patricia Karlberg in 1985. During retirement, the two have traveled widely in the U.S. and Europe, with a home base in the Black Forest.

Bob was a strong environmentalist who loved wilderness travel. Three times he hiked across the North Cascades. He and Pat traversed the Brooks Range in Alaska, and twice he hiked across the Grand Canyon, rim to rim, in one day. He not only walked and talked his beliefs, but also served nineteen years on the Whatcom Land Trust board of directors.

Everything ends. A time to “cross that lonesome valley.” Bob was deeply loved by his family and will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife Pat, his daughters Cheryl and Donna (Michael Johnson), and his stepchildren Doug (partner Jennifer Hill), Ken (Lisa), Bryn (partner Rueben Baca), his niece Susan (Shawn) and nephew Randy (Nika), along with seven granddaughters and two great-grandchildren. You may visit his “natural” grave in the Meadow at Greenacres Memorial Park in Ferndale.

A memorial service will be held on April 8th 2:30 p.m. at the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship. In lieu of flowers, you may make donations to the Robert Keller Scholarship at WWU, Whatcom Hospice House, or the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship.

# Tribute Wall

DK

“ *My deepest love for Dad. He would have truly appreciated his Green Burial. Much to say but for now, thank you. -Donna*

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**Donna Keller** - February 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

ME

“ *During my years as Dean of Fairhaven, Bob was my lodestone. During the frequent times I wanted to talk through what had happened in a puzzling or contentious faculty meeting or needed to test the waters for a Fairhaven response to some university initiative, I often found my way to Bob's office. He would sit quietly and listen to me talk, and then through a series of questions and stories, help me clarify my own thinking. A master teacher in and out of the classroom. I am also eternally grateful that he set the markers along the path for teaching a class about Death and Dying, an experience that has shaped my current work with the Palliative Care Institute. And now he is setting the markers along the paths we are all traveling toward our own dying. With deep gratitude... Marie*

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**Marie Eaton** - February 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM