



Burnice Van Ferguson

April 10, 1926 - April 26, 2023

Burnice Van Ferguson, Topeka, formerly of Prairie Village and Leawood, died Wednesday April 26th, at age 97. Van was born April 10, 1926, on a rural Arkansas dairy farm near Siloam Springs to Burnice D. and Pauline C. (Vanhooser) Ferguson. He graduated from Siloam Springs High School, John Brown University and married his high school sweetheart, Dorothy Ann Bast in 1949. During the Korean Conflict he was drafted into the Marine Corps and served stateside as a radio operator at Camp Pendleton near Oceanside, CA. After the war, the two returned to Siloam Springs where he worked as a microbiologist at the Pet Milk Company, and they became parents to son Bradford. Soon after, Van was accepted into dental school at the Kansas City-Western Dental College (now UMKC), moved to Kansas City where son Rodney was born, and graduated in 1960. He practiced dentistry for 31 years starting in North Kansas City, but soon relocating to the Country Club Plaza. A strong believer in Christian ministries, he offered his services free of charge to those in ministry, especially foreign missions. He and Dorothy retired in 1991 and travelled the world, especially the Far East, including Japan, Korea and the Philippines. They were members of Southwest Bible Church and later Colonial Presbyterian. While members of Colonial, they made numerous trips to Guatemala, so he could perform free dental services for the people there. Van and Dorothy relocated to Tahlequah, Oklahoma in 2009 and only recently came to reside in Topeka.

He looked forward to Heaven with great anticipation.

Van was predeceased by his parents and sister Nancy (Marsh). He is survived by his wife of 73 years, Dorothy, his brother James W. (Jim) of Midwest City, OK, his sons Bradford (Katherine) of Oklahoma City and Rodney (Sue) of Topeka, grandchildren Byron, Marshall (Brandie), Beau (Christina), Martin and Molly (Kevin) Williams and six great grandchildren.

2 Corinthians 5:8.

Tribute Wall

SL

“ Everyone in our Colonial Sojourners Class adored Van because he was so animated and approachable! He radiated genuine Agape love wherever he roamed. No matter one's age or stage, Van was eager to listen to your concern, pray with you and seek God's direction for you. His legendary sense of humor put everyone at ease. Suspect he reached many with the life-transforming hope of the Gospel with his velvet-glove approach! In 2009 Van cheered me along as I sought employment with a Dental Lab. He and his lovely wife, Dorothy, took me under their wing, gave me Godly counsel and cheered me along until I was hired! Their kindness and mercy made a world of difference. My goal is to keep paying such Christlike love forward for as long as possible. My deepest condolences to devoted Dorothy and the entire Ferguson family.

--Suzanne Van der Leur

Suzanne Van der Leur - May 11, 2023 at 05:06 PM

JE

“ I met Van last month during his stay at a local rehabilitation facility. He and I became fast friends and he enjoyed visits with my toy poodle puppy. He was a self proclaimed dog lover. Although I only knew Van for a short while his witt, humor, kindness, and big smile made a lasting impact on myself and many others in the facility. I only wish I had known him sooner.

To Van's family,

I send you all peace and comfort as you mourn the loss of a wonderful man.

Jessica - May 11, 2023 at 12:38 PM

FT

“ I enjoyed knowing Dr Ferguson and Dot and Mrs Bast. Van was our family’s dentist for years. And we worshipped together at Southwest and taught in same department for years

I visited them several times at Tahlequah as my brother and my parents of



B

Floyd Tannahill - May 08, 2023 at 05:09 PM

FT

I was not done. Both my parents and bother retired there. Van was a good Godly example to all

Floyd Tannahill - May 08, 2023 at 08:21 PM

FB

“ We became acquainted with Van and Dorothy when they moved to Tahlequah and lived next door to my mother. They always took care and helped Mom. We became good friends. Van always would help me with many woodworking projects, as he was a excellent craftsman. He was so fun to visit with, intelligent, topical and a great sense of humor. Dorothy was always ready with something sweet to eat. Our home is 1800 ft. from our locked gate. I was in our barn working and I hear " Hello neighbor anybody home? I was surprised as the gate is 54 inches tall. I asked how did you get in Van explained " I climbed over the top and Dorothy squeezed through the rails." They were 95 at that time- still problem solvers. I miss my friend but grateful I got to call him my friend. Frank and Mary Briscoe

Frank Briscoe - May 08, 2023 at 08:26 AM

DM

“ Van and Dorothy were members of the Sojourners SS class at Colonial Presbyterian Church in KC ,MO. He was the greatest storyteller and jokester. They were faithful supporters of many missionary families and our class was so fortunate to have them with us for many years - until they moved to Oklahoma. As they got ready to move from KC to Oklahoma, they donated many of their possessions to friends and family. Our children were recipients of needed bedroom furniture. After one of their visits to our home, I found a Japanese vase hidden in plain sight in our bookcase. They were so generous and fun. Our condolences to Dorothy; both of them were deeply loved.

David and Connie Moyes - May 02, 2023 at 06:28 PM

PD

“ Van and I were privileged to make numerous trips to Guatemala and became fast friends. What a gentleman! We loved the children and our payments consisted of hugs from them and their mamas. One year we went down before the rest of the group and shopped for equipment and supplies, finding better bargains than those in the US after paying import taxes. we had great fun even though most banks and equipment stores were heavily guarded by soldiers with automatic weapons. Van insisted on taking their pictures. I pass their former house on 95th street quite often and always think of my friends, Van and Dorothy. I lost my wife, Donnis, six months ago after 70 years of marriage.

Paul Perme, DDS - May 02, 2023 at 01:17 PM

MR

“ I met Van around May 2009. We were both attending Colonial Presbyterian Church. When we met, I was going through chemotherapy for ovarian cancer. He lived just one mile from me. When he learned about my chemotherapy sessions, he contacted me and asked if he could take me to them. Initially, I had someone go with me for the 7 to 8-hour infusions, but later asked visitors to come for a shorter time. Several times Van would take me to the KU Med Cancer Center and drop me off. We always had wonderful conversations along the way, which set a calm tone for my day in therapy. He asked about my hobbies, and I told him about my silversmithing studio in my basement, where I made jewelry. While preparing to move to OK, he offered me some of his old dental equipment, also used in silversmithing. He was so happy that someone could use it; of course, I was thrilled to receive it. I didn't know Van for long, but I am glad I got to know him. He was a very kind, warm and thoughtful person. He moved to OK around the time my chemotherapy ended, and we lost touch, but I never forgot his mark on my life. The love of Christ was evident in his life.

Mary Ripka - May 02, 2023 at 12:16 PM

CP

“ Dr Ferguson was and remains my favorite dentist. From acting surprised to something in my mouth to pulling way back with water rinse. Always kind, patient and encouraging with me. So many wonderful memories of popcorn after church and later just catching up whenever we happened to meet. True example of seeing the love of Christ in human form. To the whole Ferguson family we are praying for you and are appreciative of the role you played in our lives.

Charis Baldwin Phillips - May 02, 2023 at 05:16 AM

RJ

“ Many years ago, we enjoyed fellowship with Van and Dorothy at Southwest Bible Church, we send our Love and Prayers to Dorothy and family in their loss of a great Husband, Dad, Granddad and Great-Granddad.

Robert & Leona Jackson - April 30, 2023 at 10:44 PM

TO

“ Many years ago, I was shopping at the grocery store in Mission. I was in the checkout line, and heard someone saying, "Buy candy." It was one of Van's boys, and Van was standing behind him, egging him on. He had the greatest sense of humor.

Teddi Oppenheimerq - April 30, 2023 at 12:17 PM

KM

“ Van and Dorothy were our neighbors in Leawood. They were both so kind and pleasant and we were sad to see them move to Oklahoma. Our condolences to Dorothy and family.

Kristy Moore

Kristy Moore - April 30, 2023 at 10:19 AM

MW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Molly Williams - April 29, 2023 at 08:10 PM

BF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bradford Ferguson - April 29, 2023 at 11:50 AM

MA

“ 2 files added to the album Van



Marshall - April 29, 2023 at 08:37 AM

JB

“ Fred and I send our loving thoughts to you, Van's family. We loved Van as we love Dot and pray you will be comforted by his great love for each one of you. A celebration is going on in heaven as this giant of the faith entered his eternal home with Jesus—no more pain! We will greatly miss him.
Janet and Fred Broling

Janet and Fred Broling - April 28, 2023 at 09:26 AM

CB

When I was first married and we had very little money, Dr. Ferguson gave our family reduced-price dental care for several years. I have always remembered his kindness in our time of need.

Carol Baldwin - May 01, 2023 at 09:55 AM