

Kenneth Frank Lane, 1931-2018

Kenneth Frank Lane died peacefully on January 8, 2018, in Bellingham, Washington, after a long illness. The previous day, his entire family was present at his bedside to celebrate his 87th birthday.

Ken was born in 1931 to Frank and Emily Fanter Lane in Jersey City, New Jersey. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in Landscape Architecture from the University of Michigan and Harvard University.

He worked at various design firms in Colorado Springs, Chicago, Honolulu, and Watertown, Mass., before joining the Landscape Architecture faculty at Iowa State University, Ames, in 1963. He married Carol Bollman in 1959. Prior to 1963 and during summers throughout his career, he worked on special projects for the National Park Service in California, Oregon, Georgia, Texas, Alaska, Hawaii, and Washington state. While at ISU, he received a grant to conduct an inventory of facilities along the entirety of the Lewis and Clark Trail. Ken also served ten summers as a seasonal naturalist at Olympic National Park, engendering in his four young children a love of the Pacific Northwest.

From 1954-56, Ken was on active duty as a battery officer in Chicago and Fort Bliss, Texas, where he had served in the ROTC in 1952.

In 1986 Ken married Elizabeth Weber. They retired from ISU in 1998. They were active in the Unitarian Fellowship of Ames, assisting with the church's building addition. In 2006 he and Liz moved from Ames to Bellingham, Washington, to be near his four children and grandchildren in the Puget Sound area.

Ken was a cherished mentor to many students during his teaching years. He nurtured a lifelong passion for the natural world--animals, plants and especially birds. He became an Eagle Scout as a boy, and as an adult he enjoyed hiking, backpacking, running, wilderness canoeing, botanizing, birding, photography, and fishing, as well as carpentry and woodworking, gardening and landscaping. He also became an accomplished oil painter in retirement. His abiding interest in his last decade of life was the study and practice of Mindfulness in the Buddhist tradition of Vietnamese monk Thich Nhat Hanh. Ken founded several meditation groups in Bellingham, and in 2010 he was inducted into the Order of Interbeing.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Elizabeth Weber of Bellingham; his four children, James Lane (Kit Gianas) of Williams, AZ; Kenneth W. Lane (Caroline) and Michael Lane (Erin Suda) of Acme, WA; and Susan (Bradley) Schardein, of Bainbridge Island, WA, along with their mother and Ken's first wife of 26 years, Carol Lane Ellis of Vashon Island, WA; Ken and Carol's eight beloved grandchildren; and Ken's brother Robert Lane (wife Sue) of Cameron, NC.

Memorial gifts may be made in his name to the Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy, or Deer Park Monastery in Escondido, Calif.