

MERRELL DOYLE BUTLER

Obituary for Merrell Doyle Butler



Dr. M. Doyle Butler, 86, passed away in Stillwater, OK, on October 30, 2015. A funeral service will be held, Monday November 2, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. in First United Methodist Church, Stillwater, with the Reverend Mike Chaffin officiating. Interment will follow at the Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Strode Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Doyle was born June 14, 1929, in Perkins, Oklahoma, the son of Merrell and Opal (Baker) Butler. He attended school in Perkins, OK, graduating valedictorian in 1947. On June 10, 1950, Doyle married Helen Friedemann in Stillwater, Oklahoma, and the couple celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 10, 2015.

Dr. Butler is likely the only man to work as a carpenter on the construction of Oklahoma State University's Classroom Building in 1951; took classes in the same building, earning a B.S. in 1962, a M.S. in 1966, and an Ed.D. in 1975 from OSU; and taught classes in the same building as an Assistant Professor on the OSU faculty.

Dr. Butler began as a carpenter, building many homes and commercial buildings in Stillwater, Perkins, and Cushing, OK. He taught Industrial Arts and Carpentry at Stillwater High School, was Construction Department Supervisor at Oklahoma State University School of Vo-Tech Training in Okmulgee, and served as Campus Director, Northeast Oklahoma Area Vocational-Technical School in Pryor.

In addition to the OSU faculty, he served on the Idaho State University faculty as the Program Coordinator/Assistant Professor responsible for initiating ISU's Vocational-Technical Teacher Education Program. Dr. Butler also served as a Training Specialist in the Vocational Industrial Teacher Education Division, Texas Engineering Extension Service, Texas A&M University System, later becoming Division Head, a position he held until his retirement in 1988. Dr. Butler served overseas in Bangkok, Thailand, as an Assistant

Professor/Construction Advisor on an OSU/AID project assisting Thailand establish area vocational schools, and Ankara, Turkey, as a Technical Teacher Training Specialist developing a four-year degree program for technical/vocational teachers in Turkey.

Dr. Butler served as Chair, National Occupational Competency Testing Institute, the Texas Apprenticeship & Training Advisory Committee and President, Texas Vocational Teacher Educators Association.

He served honorably in the U.S. Naval Reserve, elected to the Perkins City Council, and the Perkins School Board, and a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church, holding various church offices and taught Sunday school for more than ten years.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one grandchild, Lauren Fagan. Survivors include his wife, Helen; sons, the Honorable Robert Butler and his wife; Cherie , St. Charles, Missouri, and Dr. Terry Butler and his wife, Dr. Sabrina Butler, Ouray, Colorado; one daughter Mrs. Beverly Fagan, and her husband, Rick, Stillwater; one sister, Mrs. Jo Suderman, and her husband, John; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made in Dr. Butler's name to the First United Methodist Church, 401 W. 7th, Stillwater, OK 74074, or a charity of your choice.