

# MEMORIAL SERVICE EULOGY

## For Robert Clyde Mong

Friday, March 9, 2018 2:00 pm

FUMC Parlor

Robert is survived by his two daughters Lisa Sifuentes and her husband Enrique and Lori Saas. His brother Larry Mong, Nephews Milo Schield and his wife Cynthia, Marlo Schield and his wife Connie (who are not able to be here), Marshall Schield and his wife Samantha and Michael Schield and his wife Barbara.

Larry his brother was 4 years younger than Robert. Larry said that he and Robert were very competitive. They would debate or you could say argue over most things. They debated over licking the cake frosting bowl! They wanted to make sure one didn't get more than the other. Their debates about food didn't stop there—they would count the scallops around the outside of the pie crust to be sure the other didn't get a bigger piece! The debate or argument went further—when they were drinking milk they would get down and sight across the milk level in the glass to make certain the other one didn't receive more.

The food theme continued in their traveling in the back of their old Model A or even their new Plymouth as they drove to the old farm at Uncle Clyde's and Aunt Irene's place. They would get into a debate about eating Bing cherries. Their mom had a big challenge dealing with her competitive boys!

Robert and Larry shared a room. If Robert fell asleep first his breathing would keep Larry awake. Larry would initially reach his foot out from under the covers and try to shake Robert's bed. When that didn't work he yelled at Robert go on for a while—then Larry would hear his mom and dad down the hall start laughing and giggling. And sometimes the noise did wake Robert up.

In later years when they hadn't seen each other for a while Robert would say, "Nice suit Larry, you clean up pretty good." Larry would often reply, "you too!"

Lori said her dad's manner of speech was direct and assertive. When he had something to say, he said it plainly. She never questioned what her Dad might be thinking. He communicated his values, his desires, and his opinions without restraint. He was a straightforward man.

Lori said, Dad played his cards pretty close to the vest. However, his actions revealed his heart. He was devoted to the well-being of their family. He made sure that Lisa and Lori had the richest of life experiences. He assured that their mom could stay at home to raise Lori and Lisa. He provided extravagant trips across Europe, Canada and the US for family vacations to share his love of travel. He provided both of his girls' education at the college of his family's history, Anderson College in Indiana. He taught Lisa and Lori how to live within their means, delay gratification and work until the work is done.

Lisa said her dad was a fairly serious and reserved man. Lisa loved it when he let his child-like character be seen. She recalls in the 1960's in July when her dad and their retired neighbor Mr. Buller had a lot of fun shooting firecrackers. They would light firecrackers under cans and in pipes and run to safety, laughing as they ran. She said her dad probably still had his Bermuda shorts with a burn hole from shooting firecrackers.

Lisa said they would see another side of their dad on family vacations. Trips to Florida had many fun memories. The family of four would find themselves at a cafeteria table, somewhere in Florida, laughing uncontrollably. Their Dad would tuck dinner napkins into his belt. Upon a laughing spell and his standing up from the table, Lori remarked that his napkin looked as if he was wearing a loincloth. Florida also allowed their Dad to watch Spring Training Baseball games, which he loved, instead of shopping with his womenfolk.

Both of Lisa and Lori's parents were very musical. Robert thoroughly enjoyed the love of music, cultivated by his mother who taught piano. He played the violin from early childhood until his death. Lori said her dad shared his love of the violin by placing his tiny, quarter-sized violin in her hands at the age of six. Their grandparents sacrificed during the depression to buy their Dad his violin and provide him lessons. Many years of violin, piano and organ lessons enriched Lori's childhood. And piano and flute enriched Lisa's life. Robert played in area symphonies. Growing up in Pennsylvania, he participated in music competitions, and generally placed in the top three. Robert and Nadine played violin-soprano duets together for many church

and family celebrations. Both sang in church choirs and community choruses throughout all their married life. The Mong family of four frequently played musical programs together for local organizations, at their mother's instigation. They kiddingly referred to their family as the "Von Trapp" family.

As their Grandpa EsKey use to say, "First we work and then we play." Both girls said their dad was first and foremost an excellent provider. He had an admirable work ethic that he learned from his parents. Lori said their dad worked his way up the ladder into management without a college degree. In many ways, he was self-taught. At Schield Bantam, he learned about profit-sharing programs for all, including "the shop" employees. This was a brilliant strategy to get employees "invested" in their jobs, their personal financial goals and ultimately the outcomes, productivity and quality of their work. Quickly, he aspired to his position as International Manager at Hesston Corporation. For many years, he traveled in Europe, Australia, Japan, South America as well as "farm belt" managing operations for Hesston. Robert also managed several small farm equipment manufacturing companies. He had a knack for prudent financial methods that led to profitability. Robert walked the manufacturing floor daily to be in touch with the "front lines" and to personally develop his employees.

Lisa said that their dad was a wise business man as demonstrated in the story of their parent's move to Bella Vista, Arkansas when they retired. Together, their dad and mom picked out a street for their new house that met their criteria. There was one problem, there were no for sale signs in vacant lots. So, Robert talked to residents of the street but they were not encouraging that a lot could be had. That didn't stop their dad. He and their mom went to the Office of Public Records and retrieved the names and addresses of owners of the vacant lots. They mailed personal letters to the owners inquiring if their lot could be purchased. Their perseverance paid off and a seller was found.

Lori said the bar was high for the standards to which their dad held himself, his family and others. Early on, this wasn't her favorite approach but now, she sees the enormous values he instilled that have prepared her and Lisa to live well.

The girl's dad loved cars, especially sports cars. Lisa remembers a couple of car stories. When the family was living in a suburb of Chicago, their dad found a white 70's Alpha Romeo Spider in the classifieds. It was a Sunday morning and they were at church. Robert took Lisa and left church early to track down the car. He wanted to be the first to see it and he was by minutes. He made an offer on the car that was accepted, before a higher offer was made. The Alpha moved with the family to North Manchester, Indiana. He would take the girls speeding on country roads. When they returned to the house their hair would be in knots!

Lisa also recalls Saturday car rides to their father's Hesston employer. Their dad had a gold 1966 Ford Galaxy 500 outfitted with an 8-track player. Dad, Lisa and Lori would sit on the front row bench seat and listen the 8-track of Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass. The girls referred to it as the lady in whipped cream.

Lisa and Lori's parents were Christian parents, people of faith. No matter where they lived they found a church home for the family and became involved in the church in the choir, finance and hospitality. Family devotions at the supper table were common place. Lori and Lisa were given a legacy of faith, family and integrity.

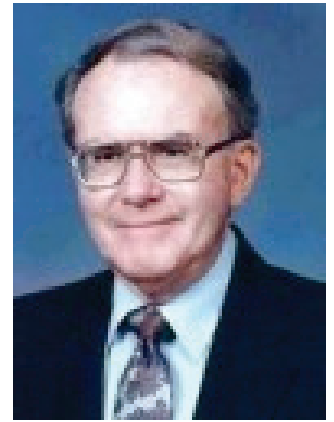
In recent years as dementia and decline stole the best parts of their parents, Lori said that their dad responded to their care with unrestrained love and gratefulness. However, it was clear that losing the love of his life, their mom, through death was more than he wanted to bear. A few weeks before their Dad's fall, they were planning on moving him to memory care. Unexpectedly, God turned the move into their Dad's final homecoming instead. A few days before, God gave their dad a vision of heaven that he described to Lisa and Lori with excitement as his "move upstairs to memory care." It blessed them to know that God knows the number of our days and He prepares and comforts us. As much as it breaks their hearts, they rejoice in the Heavenly Gift their Dad now enjoys.

The day before Robert passed away I visited him, Lori and Lisa in his hospital room. We talked quietly as he slept. He seemed to be unaware of our presence. We gathered around his bed and prayed for him. As I prayed Robert smiled. At the end of my prayer I said Amen, and so did Robert! It surprised all of us.

*Robert Clyde Mong: 1930-Feb 19, 2018 in Sand Springs, OK. Oldest son of Robert Ellsworth Mong and Olive Rowe Mong. Service conducted by Connie Cole Jeske.*

## Robert's Obituary

Robert Mong, 87, joined his beloved wife and his heavenly Father on Feb. 19, 2018, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was born at home on August 4, 1930, in Franklin, Pennsylvania, to Robert and Olive (Rowe) Mong. After college and two years in the U.S. Army, he married Nadine (Eske) Mong in 1956. Raising two daughters, Lisa and Lori, Robert and Nadine enjoyed 58 years of marriage together until Nadine's passing in 2015.



Robert was a devoted provider for his family. The family followed his career around the "farm belt" from Waverly, Iowa, to Newton, Itasca, Illinois, and North Manchester, Indiana. He spent years traveling the world as International Manager for Hesston Corporation and was a successful manager of several other farm equipment manufacturing companies until his retirement. Conservative financial management and profit-sharing programs were hallmarks of his management style.

Robert thoroughly enjoyed the love of music, cultivated by his mother who taught piano. He played the violin from early childhood until his death. He and Nadine played violin-soprano duets together for many church and family celebrations. Both sang in choirs and choruses all of their married life. During retirement, Robert and Nadine lived in Bella Vista, Arkansas, enjoying golf, musical pursuits and Bible Study Fellowship. His last years were lived in Tulsa, Oklahoma, near both daughters.

Robert is survived by daughters, Lisa Sifuentes and Lori Saas, both of Tulsa; brother, Larry Mong of Scottsdale, Arizona; and many extended family members.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Eileen Schield; wife; and grandson, Andrew Saas.

Services for Robert will take place at 2 p.m. Friday (March 9, 2018) at First United Methodist Church, 1115 S. Boulder Ave, Tulsa, Oklahoma. A memorial service and interment will take place in Waverly, Iowa, at a future date. Arrangements are entrusted to the care of Mobley-Groesbeck Funeral Service of Sand Springs, Oklahoma.

Memorials may be made to the music or Alzheimer's charity of your choice. Leave your memories of Robert and view his tribute online at [www.mogro.co](http://www.mogro.co). Published in The Kansan on Mar. 3, 2018

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/robert-mong-obituary?pid=188344250&view=questbook>  
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/thekansan/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=188344250>



Larry Mong, Lori Mong Saaz, Michael, Milo and Marshall Schield, and Lisa Mong Sifuentes