



Dwight Clare "Tod" Schroeder, 90, passed away on Wednesday, December 30th, 2015, at his home in Santa Ana. The youngest son of Santa Ana orange growers Otto and Josephine Schroeder, Dwight was born on September 30, 1925, and lived in Santa Ana for all but two years of his life.

Mr. Schroeder was a graduate of Santa Ana High School in 1943 where he was a noted scholar and track athlete. After graduation, he enrolled for a short time at Caltech until he was called back to help on the family farm and ultimately into military service. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II as an Electronic Technician's Mate 2nd Class.

After military service he returned to Caltech and earned a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering in 1950. While there he earned Varsity letters on the track team for four years, was captain of the team in his senior year, and set the school record in the low hurdles event. For his performance on the track team, Dwight received the Goldsworthy Track Award. He was the winner of the 1949 decathlon and received the coveted Hanes trophy for this feat. He also earned a varsity letter in football in his senior year and played in the Rose Bowl against Pomona, Whittier and Redlands colleges. In 1949 he was made a member of Tau Beta Pi, the National Honorary Engineering and Science Fraternity.



Upon graduation from Caltech, Dwight worked for structural engineering firms in Pasadena as a junior engineer. Some of the projects were exotic, including structural design for the test section of a supersonic wind tunnel and a system for testing rockets mounted on a sled supported on a long concrete beam and rails.

In 1951 Mr. Schroeder married Iris Iverson, who had been a classmate at Santa Ana High. After two years of residence in Pasadena, Dwight decided to leave his engineering career for a year or more to help in farming Schroeder family land in Costa Mesa. The couple returned to Santa Ana and established a home on part of the Schroeder family orange grove. Mr. Schroeder's grandfather first purchased the property in 1880, and the family continued to own and farm most of the original 25 acres. As a youngster, Dwight was greatly impressed by how irrigation water was delivered to the various farms through the Santa Ana Valley Irrigation (SAVI) system. The SAVI weir boxes controlled the location and rate of delivery of water to each farm on a precise schedule.

In 1954 Mr. Schroeder resumed his engineering career by joining Boyle Engineering Corporation in Santa Ana. He would work for them as a registered civil and structural engineer for the next thirty years until his retirement in 1984. While working for Boyle, he returned to Caltech and earned a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering (Environmental Health) in 1963.

Dwight was Vice-President of Engineering Design for Boyle Engineering and served on the Board of Directors for several years. He managed a team of engineers in the design of water and waste water facilities in Boyle's Newport Beach office. His projects included earthen dams, water storage tanks, water and sewer pipelines, water and sewage treatment plants and pumping stations, penstocks and pumping stations for irrigation projects, and some highway bridges.

Mr. Schroeder was a Life Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), American Water Works Association, Structural Engineers Association of Southern California, the U.S. Committee on Large Dams, and the Consulting Engineer's Association of California. In 1963 he served as President of the Orange County branch of ASCE, and in 1981 he was awarded Engineer of the Year for his design work on the Allen-McCulloch Feeder Line, a 110-inch diameter water main delivering water from the MWD Yorba Linda plant to southeast Orange County. He was also awarded a Lifetime Achievement in Civil Engineering Award from the Orange County branch of ASCE in 2013.

He served as a member of the AWWA Standards Committee on Steel Pipe during the 1985 revision of "Manual M11, Steel Pipe-A Guide for Design and Installation." He also assisted the American Iron and Steel Institute as a representative of the design profession on a technical advisory committee for direction of a six-year research project at Utah State University studying the interaction between flexible pipe and soil loads. His article titled, "Quality Control in Design" was printed in the September, 1976 issue of "Consulting Engineer."

Dwight was a life-long member of Grand Ave Church where he served as treasurer for many years. He enjoyed fly fishing and made several trips to Alaska and the Yellowstone area in pursuit of this activity. He also enjoyed golf as a member of Mesa Verde Country Club. He loved to travel the world with his wife Iris, and especially enjoyed golfing trips to Hawaii. He also enjoyed many trips with the Caltech Alumni Association and was a member of the Associates of Caltech.

Dwight lived a life of selfless Christian service, and was a loving son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and great-uncle. He was admired for his wisdom, humility, integrity, and calm demeanor. His beloved wife of 64 years, Iris, preceded him in death by just 3 days. Also preceding him in death were his daughter Susan Schroeder, sister Leola Noe, and brother Kenneth Schroeder. He is survived by daughter and son-in-law Sherrill and Michael Smith, daughter and son-in-law Lori and Jeffrey Goodfriend, son William Schroeder, and brother Lowell Schroeder. He is also survived by five grandchildren: Timothy, Michael and Kristen Goodfriend and Matthew and Eric Smith.

A memorial service for both Dwight and Iris Schroeder will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, January 30th, 2016 at Santa Ana United Methodist Church, 2121 North Grand Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92705.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Salvation Army or St. Joseph's Hospital of Orange.