

KEITH HAYES KAHLE OBITUARY

KAHLE Keith Hayes, Journalist, Aviation Pioneer and Friend, died July 4, 1997. Keith was born September 25, 1909 in Sistersville, West Virginia to Dr. Charles Edgar and Elizabeth Blanch Kahle and was raised in his beloved Oklahoma in Drumwright, Norman and Oklahoma City.

Keith will be remembered by those who knew him and those who just met him as a man with a smile, a handshake, and a "Hello Friend." Combining a lifetime love of journalism and aviation, Keith began his career as an aviation columnist for The Daily Oklahoman and writing a newsletter he called The Taxi Strip. During one summer he worked on the dirigibles Akron and Macon.

He graduated from Iowa State University in 1932 with a Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering and minors in Industrial Management and Journalism. Keith was a member of Beta Theta Pi, Sigma Delta Chi Journalism Fraternity and was the editor of his college annual and the engineering school magazine. He proudly served as a major in the US Civil Air Patrol during World War II.

With diligence and guidance from his friends Tom Braniff and C.R. Smith, Keith developed, owned and operated Central Airlines, flying in 6 states, initially from Meachem Field then Greater Southwest Airport. In 1964 it merged with Frontier Airline and then became Continental Airlines. He was always so proud of the company, its staff and its perfect flight record.

In 1965 he associated with LTV AeroSpace and exhibited the XC-142 Turbo-Prop at the Paris Air Show, and assisted in the development of the Air Trans System at DFW Airport.

He only recently retired from ElectroCom where he served as Advisor to President (and friend) Bob Buzard.

In 1982 he was inducted into the Oklahoma Aviation Hall of Fame where Central Airlines memorabilia is on exhibition. His personal papers, photographs and daily journals are in the special archival collection at The University of Texas at Arlington.

Keith was an avid University of Oklahoma football fan, greeting the team for 44 consecutive years in the MetroPlex for the annual Texas-OU game. He was an Honorary member of the "O" Club and the Touchdown Club.

Special thanks to Moira Reinhardt and the exceptional staff at the James West Center for their loving care. Keith is survived by his wife of 20 years, Jean McLaughlin Kahle; stepchildren Ronald and Jeff DeFord, Mac and Lena DeFord, Deborah and Gary Dunkum; grandchildren Madeline Dunkum Consolvo, Kinnison Dunkum, Christina and Shawn DeFord and great-grandchild Ashley Consolvo. He was preceded in death by former wife Betty Alexander Kahle.

Visitation was Sunday at Greenwood Funeral Home in Ft. Worth, TX. Service will be Monday, July 7, 1997, 11 a.m., at Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, TX. Pallbearers will be Bob Buzard, Fred Hodge, George Jagers, Phil Jordan, Max Lale, Mark McLaughlin, Burgess Sealy, Lee West and Jim Wright.

Honorary pallbearers will be Former Employees of Central Airlines. Memorials may be sent to the University of Oklahoma Athletic Scholarship Fund, James West Presbyterian Care Center or the Fort Worth Garden Club.

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