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Eiler HUMBERT

HUMBERT, Eiler Shirley (PhD)

June 21, 1927 - December 15, 2020

It is with great sadness that the family of Eiler Humbert announces his passing on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at City Hospital in Saskatoon. Eiler was predeceased by his beloved wife Jean, whom he met at Central Collegiate in Regina. They were married in 1950, this began a love story that lasted 67 years. Remembering Eiler are his sons, Mark (Marsha), grandson Brad, great-grandchildren Eden and Liam, and their mother Leah; Doug (Louise), grandchildren Emily and Davis; Greg; Paul (Fay), grandchildren Jillian (Brett), great-grandson Jaxson, Riley (Sam), Madeline, and their mother Gaylene; and the extended Humbert family.

Eiler was born and raised on a farm south of Regina. During the Depression his family was forced off the farm, relocated to be with family in San Diego and later, returned to Saskatchewan to the family farm.

After completing elementary school near his farm, and high school in Regina, he enrolled at the U of S. He completed his undergraduate and Master's degree in the College of Agriculture. After graduating from the U of S, Eiler and Jean ventured to Michigan where he furthered his education and earned his PhD at Michigan State University. The future of his life took a wonderful turn, when Doug Gibson offered him a faculty position in the Dairy and Food Science Department in the College of Agriculture at the U of S. He was a gifted teacher and researcher, admired by many, and upon his retirement he was acknowledged as a Professor Emeritus. From his humble beginnings to a Professor was an achievement in itself.

Eiler was a proud Agro throughout his teaching years and remained so during his retirement years. He and Jean were members of the "Sod Busters", a donor group that enabled the initial planning of the

new College of Agriculture building at the U of S. In his final years, during his many walks on campus, the sight of the Agriculture building always brought a smile to his face.

He generously gave his time to many organizations. He served as president of the Saskatchewan Agricultural Graduates Association and was awarded an honorary life membership. He was the president of the Saskatoon Kinsmen Club and he went on to serve on the National Executive of the Kinsmen. His and Jean's involvement with the Kinsmen and the Kinettes resulted in lifelong friends, and many fond memories.

A Saskatoon Hilltop Director for over thirty years he served as President in 1979. His years of contributions to the Hilltops were honoured by a Life Membership. For 35 years, Eiler was a member at Riverside Golf Club. He and Jean loved to golf, yet he often remarked it was a game that offered him continual frustration. He was also an avid curler, who enjoyed curling at the Nutana Curling Club and looked forward to the Annual Agricultural Farm and Home Week Bonspiel.

An active member of the United Church, Eiler attended St. Martin's and St. Paul's and while he did not have a voice for the choir like Jean, he found other ways to support his church by serving as a Hi C leader, usher, actor in dinner theatres and a church elder.

Eiler and Jean raised their boys on Leddy Crescent. From backyard BBQ's to birthdays, drive way basketball games, weddings and anniversary celebrations, the Leddy Crescent gang were always close by.

Eiler's true love was his family. Together with Jean he raised four active boys whom he affectionately referred to as numbers one, two, three and four. He was a great supporter of his boys and their families and spent many years cheering on the Evan Hardy Souls, Aden Bowman Bears, and the U of S Huskies as together with Jean they supported their sons and grandchildren in their pursuit of the sports and activities they loved. His passing this close to Christmas reminds us of how special he always made Christmas for our family. We fondly remember his love of buying "just one more ornament" for the tree and the special ornament that tweeted like a bird. We loved his Christmas breakfasts and watching him bask in the glow of his beloved family all gathered at this special time of the year.

Eiler is fondly remembered by family, former colleagues, and friends as a warm, generous, kind and gentle soul. His good sense of humour and cheerful nature always made people feel welcome. These qualities were evident in his early days at the U of S when he proudly received the "Tommy Fraser Memorial Trophy" for sportsmanship. Eiler was a true gentleman and a member of an inspirational

generation. His legacy will live on through his children and their families.

Eiler's family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to Delia, Faith, Ana and staff at the Persephone Private Care Home for their exceptional care of Eiler. His last days were spent at City Hospital where the nursing staff and other health care workers on the Sixth Floor Transition Wing showed incredible compassion and kindness to Eiler and his boys. Thank you so much.

A family memorial service and celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

Donations in memory of Eiler may be made to "The Eiler Humbert Memorial Award", College of Agriculture and Bioresources, University of Saskatchewan. Cheques can be made payable to the University of Saskatchewan and mailed to University Relations, G15 Thorvaldson Building, 110 Science Place, Saskatoon SK, S7N 5C9. Please include a note indicating the donation is for the "Eiler Humbert Memorial Award - Terms in development". Donations may also be made online at donate.usask.ca. In the comments area please indicate: "Eiler Humbert Memorial Award - Terms in Development". Condolences may be sent to www.hillcrestmemorial.ca