Dean O. White Obituary

It is with the heaviest of hearts that the family of Dean White reports his passing on March 25, 2018, surrounded by his loved ones in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Dean was pre-deceased by his beloved wife, Joyce, in 2001 and is survived by his 2 sons, Marc (Teri Knebel), Brad (Teresa White) of Wichita, and daughter Michelle DeAngelis of Santa Monica, CA, along with 8 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

Dean was born in 1928 in Belleville, Arkansas and grew up near rural Havana in Cedar Creek. He graduated from high school at 15 and then graduated from the University of Central Arkansas at 19. Dean was a chemistry teacher at Harrison High School where he met the love of his life, Joyce Turner, who was working at the high school as a secretary. They soon fell in love and were married on The Hollywood Bride and Groom Show in August 1949.

They moved to Wichita, Kansas where Dean worked as a chemist at Derby Refinery and together Joyce and Dean decided to form Dean's Designs Inc., offering flowers, gifts and interiors. Dean and Joyce had always been interested in flowers, their beauty and charm, and their effect on emotions. This was a theme of their life together so, as business grew, their focus on happiness manifested itself in "Happiness Plaza" an elegant retail center in Wichita focused on all things joyful, including Dean's Designs, Happiness Plaza Travel and other high-end retail stores.

Their public life of service and entertainment never stopped. They were termed "masters of ceremony" throughout their careers within the floral, interior design and travel industries. Dean was a member of the Society of American Florists, American Academy of Florists, and is one of the founders of American Institute of Floral Design, Canadian Academy of Floral Art and Professional Floral Commentators International.

Very dear to Dean's heart was the World Flower Council, an international floral design organization whose mission is to *promote world peace through flowers.* Dean has been a member of World Flower Council since it began in Gifu, Japan in 1983 and attended all of the annual summit meetings, except one, around the globe. Beloved by so many worldwide, Dean both gave and received tremendous joy throughout his world travels of bringing florists together sharing a love and knowledge of flowers.

In 1999, as Chairman Emeritus of the World Flower Council, Dean received the Floral Nobel Peace Prize, a grand tribute to his accomplishments. Dean was often called "a legend," a "hero" and a champion to many who witnessed his talent and spirit in action.

Finally, any mention of Dean's accomplishments would be woefully lacking without highlighting his love of family. This was the most important of Dean's many

orchestrated events and he showed us all the power and great gift of the loving family unit. He taught every child and grandchild how to live fruitfully, with joy and fearlessness, and to continue the legacy of service to others. From organizing entire family outings and worldwide family trips, annual summer reunions and the celebrated Christmas dinners for 33 years at the country club…no one would ever miss those heartfelt occasions.

Some of Dean's last words were, "Ah, the Gates are open!"…so we're sure those gates now have garlands of flowers in celebration of his arrival.

The family is having a private celebration of Dean's life and would be honored to have remembrances of Dean directed to the World Flower Council to continue his legacy of beauty and design…and to perpetuate WFC efforts to *promote world peace through flowers.* http://www.worldflowercouncil.org/dean-white-memorial/