

George L. Needham died July 1, 2010, in Norman, Okla. He was born in Middletown, Ohio, April 24, 1920, the youngest of six children born to Thomas E. Needham and Maude S. House Needham. He grew up in North Braddock, Penn., with his four older brothers, Harry, Lester, Wilbert and Oliver, and his sister Nora, who have preceded him in death.

In 1941, he graduated from Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio, with a degree in music education. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. In 1941, he married Ethel Miller, who preceded him in death in 1974.

He attended Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, receiving a Master of Theology degree in 1952. He was ordained an elder in the United Methodist Church in 1952 in the Oklahoma Conference.

During his 40-year ministry, he served churches in Grant, Stratford, Newkirk, Shawnee Wesley, Marlow, Madill, Tulsa St. Mark's, Vinita, Tonkawa, Purcell Trinity, Stillwater First, Lawton Centenary, Oklahoma City Mayfair Heights, and Checotah. He married Ann Smith Moomau in 1975. During his ministry, he enjoyed teaching in United Methodist Women's Schools of Christian Mission. He retired from full-time ministry in 1989. He and Ann moved to Cliffside Park, N.J., where Ann served in New York City with the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries for 13 years. While there, George sang with the Oratorio Society of New York at Carnegie Hall.

Since Ann's retirement in 2002, he resided in Norman, Okla., and he and Ann were active members of McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church and the Searchers class.

He was an avid piano player and had a wonderful tenor voice. He enjoyed travelling with Ann and enjoyed many cruises with friends.

He is survived by his wife, Ann, of Norman, Okla.; his children, Sylvia Kelly and husband Jan of Hendrix, Okla.; Coralee Duncan and husband Ken of Chouteau, Okla.; Laurel Eaton and husband Eric of Edmond, Okla.; Steve Moomau and wife Julia of Coppell, Texas; and Susie Wallace of Oklahoma City. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Paul Kelly, Terri Karlsson, George Kelly, Scott Hannan, Ian Sons, Daniel and Rebekah Moomau, and Benjamin, Jacob and Matthew Wallace; and eight great grandchildren.

George's sense of humor touched everyone he knew. He often said, "Man is naturally gregarious, and there is nothing like fellowship." His life was full of loving family and friends, but everyone who came in contact with him was touched by his genuine acceptance.

The family would like to express appreciation to the physicians and staff of the Norman Veteran's Center.

The memorial service will be held at 2 p.m., Wednesday, July 7, 2010 at McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church, in Norman, Okla., under the direction of Havenbrook Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the McFarlin United Methodist Church music program.