



## Dr. Kenneth W. Reisch

October 7, 1929 - March 10, 2021

Dr. Kenneth W. Reisch, “Ken”, age 91, of Lewis Center, Ohio passed away peacefully surrounded by the love of his life Janice, “Jan”, & their four children on March 10, 2021. Ken was born in Southington Connecticut to Bertha & William Reisch, 10-7-1929 & He attended the University Of Connecticut, graduating with a BS in 1947 in Landscape Architecture & Horticulture. He attended The Ohio State University for Graduate School, receiving his PHD in 1956. Ken taught between 1952-1972 in the Horticultural & Agricultural Research Departments & served as Associate Dean for the College of Agriculture, Natural Resources & Home Economics at The Ohio State University for 15 years until he retired 1989. He held many leadership positions throughout his life, wrote or contributed to too many publications to list, & received a multitude of recognitions & awards. He was an active member of the Ohio Nursery Association. He loved teaching & he was a lifelong learner. After retirement to present, he was an Associate Dean emeritus, served on many committees & boards & the one that he was the most instrumental for was the Chadwick Arboretum. He also served on the Worthington Arborist Committee for 30 years. Ken’s legacy will be how he made people feel & his commitment to family, friends, community, education, & his faith. He loved gardening, singing in the choir, traveling with family & friends, coffee in the morning with something sweet, a glass of red wine with dinner, & attending Buckeye sporting events. Jan said that Ken said his proudest accomplishment was his family. He is survived by his high-school sweetheart & soulmate, Janice “Jan” who was always by his side & one was not without the other. Ken and Jan had the adventure of a lifetime. Ken will be missed and remembered by his four children and their spouses; Karen (Terry), Mark (Tricia), Laura (Tom), and Eric (Pam) and memories and stories will be told of Papa/PoPop by his 12 grandchildren; Michael, Michael Paul (Amy), Kara, Sean, Kailyn, Jordan, Lea, Crosby, Megan, Sam, Maren, and Matt. And last but not least his love and loyalty to the Buckeyes was unfounded. He & Jan were fierce supporters of the OSU Buckeye football & men’s & women’s basketball teams. They bled scarlet & gray, “Go Bucks!” He was an amazing, humble man, with a generous spirit, along with a stubborn & persistent soul who always thought of others before himself. Plant a tree in his honor, bring flowers to your loved one for no reason, hold your special people close, & never take life for granted, cherish every moment. A celebration of his life

will take place sometime this summer or fall with hopes that the world will be a safer place and people vaccinated and in lieu of flowers gifts can be made in Ken's memory to the Chadwick Arboretum at The Ohio State University. Please reference fund #306837 on your check and mail to: The Ohio State University Foundation / PO Box 710811/Columbus, OH 43271-0811; or go online at <https://www.osu.edu/giving/> and search for fund #306837. For questions, please call Jennifer Heller at 614.247.8754

# Cemetery

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## Walnut Grove

Worthington, OH, 43085

# Comments

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“ April 12, 2021

I only just learned of of Ken's passing. It saddens me.

I met him in the fall quarter of 1971 at The Ohio State University. I was a student in his Ornamental Horticulture Plant Identification Class. He later became my faculty advisor for my graduate degree.

I felt he took a special interest in me. I suspect every student he advised felt the same way. He was always kind and sincere in his advice. I felt a special connection to him, and I suspect every student he advised felt the same way

After graduation I remained in Columbus to work and would occasionally cross paths with him, at a football game, at the yearly ONA Short Course and Trade Show, or even out and about in the community. Even though many years had passed, the connection was immediately there. He asked about my career and my family. Such a kind man.

I was just thinking of him last week, thinking that I should make an effort to connect again. Sadly, today I learned that connecting would not happen again in this life.

Dr. Reisch, Ken, thank you for guiding me in my early years and for the life friend you became. Godspeed, Ken Reisch. Godspeed.

Blake E Rafeld

**Blake Rafeld** - April 12, 2021 at 06:02 PM



“ Blake,

I want to thank you for your very kind words about my dad. I wish you had the opportunity to connect. He would of enjoyed seeing you again.

Mark

**Mark Reisch** - June 29, 2021 at 10:56 AM