



STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF OREGON SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

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The Don Kramer Memorial Scholarship



Donald Robert Kramer was born in Woodland, Washington on October 18, 1924, the last of 5 boys and 6 girls. His family moved to Vancouver, Washington in 1929 and Don completed school there. He served in the Navy's Seabees in the South Pacific during World War II. While serving with the Seabees, he gained a desire to become a structural engineer. He graduated from Gonzaga University and moved to Portland, married Betty, and began work as a steel detailer in a fabrication shop. He also worked for the Forest Service designing bridges, then at one of Portland's finest structural engineering firms, Cooper & Rosé, before joining James and Honey in the mid 1950s. Frank Honey and Don formed Honey and Kramer in 1960, where he worked on several notable projects such as the original Kaiser Hospital in Portland and St. Joseph's Hospital in Vancouver.

In 1969 he formed Don Kramer & Associates, which in 1981 became Kramer Gehlen & Associates. His firm became known for excellence in wood-framed and post-tensioned concrete structures. Projects completed by Honey and Kramer and Kramer Gehlen and Associates include many Red Lion Hotels, Fred Meyers stores, The Inn at Otter Crest on the Oregon coast and the Pabst brewery in Zhaoqing, China. The brewery project gave him a love for the Orient where he made many business contacts who, over time, became friends. He traveled often to China to visit those friends and pursue business opportunities.

He never gave up his quest to learn, coming into the office daily and working on jobs for the company with the many friends he made over the years. He freely donated his time to The City of Vancouver, Clark County, churches, scouting, parks, and animal facilities providing free design time and labor. His ever-busy mind came up with an improved slab-on-grade dowel system over the last few years of his life that he saw through the patent process, eventually manufacturing the dowel system in China. He continued to market that system up to his passing at age 82.

Don was an innovative engineer, wise mentor and a good friend to many. His generosity and sense of humor will be remembered by all who knew him. We who were able to work with him are better engineers for having that privilege.

*David Goff, P.E., S.E.
Kramer Gehlen and Associates, Inc.*

As I told my son, Andy when I introduced him to Don: "Andy, this is one of the good ones." Don exemplified the best in structural engineers in his practice, and service to the profession.

*Art James, P.E., S.E.
One of Don's original employers*