



Kelvin B Groseclose

November 14, 1940 - June 29, 2017

Pastor Kelvin "Kel" B. Groseclose
1940-2017

Back in 1990, I composed my own obituary and shared it with this paper's (Wenatchee World) readership. Nearly twenty years later, I feel a need to update it, because I've matured significantly and made a few changes in my life. It's not that I don't trust my family and friends to write an excellent remembrance of my life and accomplishments. My plan, of course, is to outlive them all. Anyway, who knows me better than the one who's lived inside this body for nearly 77 years? When that moment arrives, as it does for all Homo sapiens who walked on this earth, I want to go with style and a smile on my wrinkled face.

So first of all, you can skip the details such as where and when I was born. Google my name if you must. Who really cares what schools of higher education I attended? What counts are the people I helped, the values I espoused, the hope I shared, and the way I loved my family and friends. I'd like to be remembered in these following ways:

Kel Groseclose cared about this earth, its inhabitants, and all living creatures. Okay, he didn't appreciate tomato worms in his garden and pesky ants on their kitchen counters. He sometimes worried too much instead of taking action. He for certain watched too many ballgames on television. He tried to improve the soil around their home, recycle everything he could, and live in

peace with his neighbors. When he messed up, he usually asked for forgiveness and for another chance.

Kel enjoyed swishing through piles of autumn leaves, kicking rocks down the street, looking through kaleidoscopes, flying kites, and blowing soap bubbles into a gentle breeze. Next to his love affair with family, especially those 15 gifted and beautiful grandchildren and seven great grandchildren, he had a passion for his small garden, their various family pets, and the magnificent maple tree in their front yard. He talked to birds and butterflies, and often gave them names. Music was an integral part of his daily life, from old time fiddle tunes to the pipe organ, from percussion to string quartets. He enjoyed cooking and made a tasty apple crisp using his mother's well-worn recipe. He would have lived in a tree house had it been an option. He pressed flower petals in his journals, all 45 of them (to date). Watching the sky on a clear winter night took his breath away. Kel had his share of faults. He probably played over a million games of solitaire; blew seeds off dried dandelions and into his neighbors' yards; and sneaked chocolate chip cookies when he thought no one was watching. He could hit a telephone pole at 50 feet with a snowball, and was skilled at skipping flat rocks on smooth ponds.

Kel finally learned to cry when he was 41-years-old, and considered it one of his most important accomplishments. He talked too much, listened too little, and hugged too infrequently. He chewed his fingernails when he got nervous, had dandruff in his beard, slurped hot coffee, and couldn't keep a secret worth beans. He never claimed to be perfect, always admitting that he was a perpetual work in progress.

He hopes that family and friends will gather where there's lots of food, noise, laughter, and maybe a few tears; and swap stories about that old guy who did the best he could considering what he had to work with. Somebody better bring a fiddle and get folks dancing; or at least tapping their toes to a lively beat. Otherwise, he may have to come back and do it himself.

Please join Kel's wife, Ellen; children, John (Heather) Groseclose, Steve (Kimberly) Groseclose, Aimee (Michael) Wilson, Mike (Kristen) Groseclose,

Sara (Bryce) Milton and David (Cheryl) Groseclose; sister, Anna (Jerry) Nichols, his 15 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren for a Celebration of Life on Sunday, July 16, 2017, 2:00 pm at the First United Methodist church in Wenatchee.

You are invited to view his online guestbook at www.HeritageMemorialChapel.com . Arrangements are in the care of Heritage Memorial Chapel, East Wenatchee

Tribute Wall

AM

“ Thinking of you tonight, Grandpa! We all love and miss you.

Abby Milton - March 28, 2024 at 12:41 AM

SN

“ to the family of Pastor Groseclose we send you our deepest condolences.
My husband and I were married by Pastor Groseclose 15 1/2 years ago at the Wenatchee UMC.
We wish all the family well and send our thoughts and prayers during this time of loss.

Shadrack and Tracie Nyangweso - July 25, 2017 at 03:39 PM

TF

“ Our condolences to the Groseclose Family. Kel was actively engaged in our childhood with activities growing up in the UMC, as our little league baseball coach, and as a physical presence after the birth of our son. He is missed and we are all better people as a result of our life paths crossing. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

The Chan-Nui Family - July 19, 2017 at 04:20 PM

MH

“ One of Kel's newspaper stories featured my young grandson. As he and my daughter were in the car driving past Peshastin he asked what was the town's name. She told him Peshastin and he said no it's not, it's Heaven. He had decided that since my parents were buried at the Peshastin Cemetery and he knew they went to Heaven then Peshastin had become Heaven. A story and memory of a great man that taught us by example.. Thank you, Kel.

Marilou Hughes - July 15, 2017 at 08:22 PM

ML

“ You will be so missed by many. God Bless.

Mary Lowe - July 15, 2017 at 07:05 PM

FC

“ Dear Groseclose family,

I am grateful for the opportunity to share a couple of memories of Kel. The first one was at Ohme Gardens when he was officiating at my newhew's wedding. A large gathering and the wind was blowing briskly. At that time he had long silver hair and it was being blown all over. He paid not one bit of attention to it but just let it blow. I do believe that he enjoyed what was happening to his hair.

I used to look forward to his columns to read and reread and just savor what he could do with words. One of his sayings goes like this: "To my credit I have learned to listen learn and enjoy." Not a bad thing for all of us.

So Pastor Groseclose we thank you for the loving and caring way you shepherded your flock. May you rest easy.

Foster & Dorothy Copeland - July 12, 2017 at 11:36 PM

BM

“ Ellen and family, I was really surprised to read of Kal's death. I have not seen him for many months. It was always a fun time to greet him and recall what he has been doing. I still appreciate his writings and thinking. He was open to my religious thoughts as well. I will miss him. I wish I could have seen him more recently.

*All My Best,
Ben*

Ben Knecht, MD - July 12, 2017 at 08:51 PM

BW

“ I have a scrapbook of mental memories of times spent as a chaperone for the youth group, Sunday Drive-in Service, Christmas Eve communion with Kel. I was blessed to know Kel who shared in my sorrows and my joys.

When after many years I became pregnant and was worried that once again I would not hold in my arms a child he told me that no matter what happened he would be there for me. True to his word he was.

I went into labor on Sunday in the Summer. The night before I had made old fashioned donuts for the Drive In Service. An hour after giving birth to my son he showed up. He asked how I was and I told him I was hungry. He said he would have brought me a donut but they were all gone. From the twinkle in his eye I was sure that he had enjoyed one or more of them. I mentioned that I would love to have a juicy hamburger and after he left one was delivered. I always thought he had a hand in that.

It meant a lot to me to have him show up to share in my joy of having a healthy baby. Especially since I did not have any biological family nearby. It also meant a lot to me that years later he would make the trip to officiate at my son's wedding.

Kel touched so many people with his caring and our lives are richer for having known him.

Beth Wheeler - July 12, 2017 at 05:15 PM

TE

“ Dearest Ellen and Family, our heart broke when we heard of Kel's passing. What a great man and so very special to our family! Kel touched so many lives, what a blessing to have known him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Melissa, Tom, Brian and family and Lisa and family.

Tom and Melissa Ellsworth - July 11, 2017 at 06:16 PM

DM

“ Big hugs to all the Groseclose family! It has been a very long time since your family was my second family as a young kid. My brother & I spent countless hours at your house, at church, at family camp. Thanks for all the fun experiences and letting us be a part of your family, Kel was one of a kind and I will always remember his chuckle when he was telling a story on himself!

Danielle (Ringler) McKee - July 10, 2017 at 04:31 PM

GW

“ I never met Pastor Groseclose, but I read all and saved a few of his newspaper columns from the Wenatchee World. I have columns from July 27, 2006 to Jan. 6, 2011 when he stopped submitting them. He was so "human" in his columns. I enjoyed his self-written obit and was surprised when he confessed that he couldn't keep a secret. I hope he meant about "surprise birthday parties." His self-description was so humble (beard dandruff, chewed fingernails). I will miss his presence on earth and wish his family the best as they accept his physical loss. My condolences, Gaylen Willett, Chelan

Gaylen Willett - July 10, 2017 at 12:21 PM

JB

“ My condolences to your family. I didn't know Mr. Groseclose, but see a lot of him in Mike after reading this. Rest in Peace Mr. Groseclose.

Jill Bonzano - July 10, 2017 at 12:12 PM

DC

“ I only knew Cousin Kel through his writings and family 'stories' I've heard about him. I feel sure he made a profound difference and many positive contributions throughout his life on this Earth. May he R.I.P. My thoughts and prayers are with his family whom he loved so much. In Appreciation, Daisy

Daisy Groseclose Cochran - July 08, 2017 at 01:59 PM

SL

“ Heaven has gained a very special angel! We have appreciated knowing Kel Groseclose as our pastor, and friend, who always took the high road and set such a great example. He was a part of so many of our family's joys as well as our sorrows over the years. We send our deepest condolences to Ellen and his family at their profound loss.

Sandra & Gordon Law - July 08, 2017 at 11:19 AM

DC

“ There are not enough words in the American language to describe Kel Groseclose. He was not only my pastor but he was my friend who always had a smile and a quick word of advice every time we met. I will miss his smile and that sparkle in his eyes but I know he has found peace and is now whole again. Godspeed my friend.

Doug Countryman - July 06, 2017 at 07:01 PM

DE

“ *Kel was a big part of our families life. Heaven has a new angel. He is missed by all. We shall all remember how thrilled he was when he remarried Sandra and I on a surprise 30th anniversary. Prayers and love to the family.*

Denny and Sandy English

Denny English - July 05, 2017 at 03:37 PM

LC

“ *Kel is the dad of a high school friend of mine and he officiated the wedding of my self and my husband. I have great memories of him and his family. I will miss him . My thought and prayers are with his familyou. Lisa*

Lisa Crawford - July 04, 2017 at 09:11 PM

MG

“ This is a prayer my dad wrote for a devotional book for men. The prayer is titled "True Greatness". It summarizes the kind of person he strived to be and the kind of person he was.

He started with the last bit of Luke 9:48 from the Living Bible (TLB) translation, which says: "Your care for others is the measure of your greatness." His prayer reflects on this, and asks God to remind all of us of the true meaning of greatness.

Here's his prayer:

"Your care for others is the measure of your greatness."

"My heart, O God, knows what true greatness is, but my brain and my body keep forgetting. It's my compassion, not my credentials; my faithfulness, not my fame; my commitments, not my cars. It's inward peace, not outward power.

Remind me, Lover of My Soul, that greatness does not come from parchments hanging on walls, from balance sheets or bank accounts, from properties or political clout. From your eternal perspective, greatness means caring for my spouse and family, for my friends and colleagues. Teach me, day by day, that true greatness is offering a smile, giving a hug, wiping a tear, comforting a child, helping a stranger, being in love. Amen."

Mike Groseclose - July 03, 2017 at 09:20 PM

“ Many people knew and loved my dad. He touched so many in his life. You knew the pastor who cared for his congregation. Who visited the sick, the dying, and who comforted the survivors. Who celebrated new life and new unions, who baptized and confirmed in the faith. Who prayed for you and with you, in good times and in bad. Who preached about God's love for us, and about the beauty in the world. Who smiled and laughed and loved. I love him and am proud of the impact he had.

We also knew him as Dad. He was a good dad. He sacrificed so much for us, and I hope I can be for my family the kind of man he was for ours. The dad who worked hard to provide us with food, and clothing and a roof over our heads. Who took a risk and ran a bookstore with my mom so we could stay in Wenatchee. Who brought my string bass home a hundred times so I could practice (even though I didn't always...). Who taught me to garden, and catch and throw, and how to tie a tie. Who was proud of me no matter what. Who showed me by example what it is to be a good man, loving and kind. I love him and am so very grateful for everything he did for us.

Our family also knew the man who was impatient and anxious. Who could be quick to anger, and who was at times overly dramatic. Who was known for getting flustered and saying after a glass was knocked over at dinner, "milk is the worst substance in the world!" Who when worried about our dog Max biting (after he'd been teased), "a dog's bite is like a woman's high heel on hot asphalt" or something like that. Who was not usually the calming force in our home growing up. I love him and am humbled by his total awesomeness, in spite of his flaws.

Or maybe because of them. Maybe that's what made him such a great man, pastor and dad. Here was an imperfect man who tried his best and gave deeply of himself to everyone. Who made mistakes and had regrets. But who cared and comforted. Who was anxious and impatient. But who loved with his whole heart. Who has

now gone on to his eternal reward, and who has left our family, our community and our world better because of his life and the great love he shared with us. He blessed us with his life. I love him and will miss him.

Mike Groseclose - July 03, 2017 at 07:31 PM