

Carl H. Stoltenberg

1924-2001

Carl Stoltenberg was a visionary forester and economist who believed in the principles of sustainable forestry and that the practice of forestry can contribute to society and the economy. He touched the lives of thousands of students, colleagues and people in the forest industry. Carl pushed for open dialogue, making sure all voices were heard – no matter what those voices were saying. An inspired and inspiring leader, he exhibited clear thinking about goals and achievements and took pride in the accomplishments of those around him. Carl was an encouraging mentor, a kind and gentle man of integrity and compassion, a devoted churchman, and a loving husband and father.

Born May 17, 1924 in Monterey, California to George and Eloise Stoltenberg, Carl was the second of two sons. He was raised in Pacific Grove and Paso Robles, California, where he graduated from high school. Carl considered careers in both forestry and the ministry. He chose the former when his pastor advised that he could “make a big difference with his collar on forwards or backwards.” “Making a difference” and “taking advantage of opportunities presented” were core beliefs characterizing Carl’s life.

In 1942, Carl entered the University of Berkeley but World War II intervened. He served in the US Army, 101st Infantry Division until discharged in 1945 at the rank of Technical Sergeant. His unit liberated Dacau – a memory he never forgot.

After the war, Carl returned to Cal-Berkeley, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1948 and a Masters degree in 1949. While at Cal-Berkeley, Carl married Jean Shirley with whom he had five children: Bruce, Gail, Susan, Paul and Shirley. In 1949, Carl moved the family to the University of Minnesota, where he was a forestry instructor and where, in 1952, he received a PhD in Agricultural Economics.

Carl taught forestry at Duke University for six years in the early 1950s, before serving as Head and then Chief of Economics Research for the U.S. Forest Service at Upper Darby, PA. From 1960-67 he was professor of forestry and department head at Iowa State University. Carl was named Dean of the College of Forestry and Director of the Forest Research Lab at Oregon State University in 1967, serving in those two positions for 23 years.

In 1973, he married Rosemary Johnson and assisted in the rearing of her two children, Michael and Jillean. At the time of his death, Carl had 24 grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Dean Stoltenberg served on numerous state and national boards and committees. He was proud of his twenty years of service on the Oregon Board of Forestry, from 1967 to 1987. He served as Chairman for nine years, the longest any chair has served. During his term on the Oregon Board of Forestry, his leadership skills played a major role in bringing competing interests

together to forge the strongest forest protection legislation in the nation – the Oregon Forest Practices Act of 1971. Thanks to his pioneering work, Oregon has been and continues to be viewed, worldwide, as a leader in forest protection and innovative management to protect forest values of all types.

Dean Stoltenberg's service to his profession was not limited to the Oregon Board of Forestry or to Oregon State. He served as chairman of the Secretary of the Interior's Oregon & California BLM advisory board from 1971 to 1978, as chairman of the Secretary of Agriculture's State and Private Forestry advisory committee from 1970 to 1974, and on the National Advisory Board on Cooperative Forestry Research from 1961 to 1966 and again from 1986 to 1991. In addition, Carl was a member of the American Economics Association, the Forest Products Research Society and Sigma Xi. He authored more than 50 scientific and professional publications and co-authored one book that is still the key text on planning research to improve forestry decisions.

Carl joined the Society of American Foresters in 1949 and remained a member until his death. He became a Fellow in the Society in 1971 and served as national president in 1988. In 1993, Carl was awarded the Society's prestigious Gifford Pinchot medal for "outstanding service to the profession of forestry."

Carl's contributions to an understanding of forests and their importance to society are immeasurable. As Dean of the College of Forestry at Oregon State University, he built a world-class research capability that has been at the forefront of responding to

societal changes in forest values. During his 23 years as Dean, the teaching program doubled in size, the continuing education program swelled, the extension program became the largest in the nation, and the enrollment of women and minorities rose from close to none to over 25% of enrollment. Under his leadership, the college's forestry research program evolved from recognized excellence in timber management to leadership in ecosystem research and the development of prescriptions for managing forests for a variety of primary objectives, from conservation of ecosystem function and biodiversity, to biotechnology and intensive timber protection.

Early in the tenure at Oregon State, Carl incorporated forest hydrology into the Forest Engineering Department, which then developed an international reputation as a leader in developing forest operations that are both economically efficient and environmentally compatible. He had a gift for bringing talented young faculty into the college and supporting their work. Younger colleagues who worked for and with Carl have gone on to leadership positions across a wide spectrum: as deans and department heads at universities; heads of state and federal forestry agencies; and as leaders in forest industry. He also brought in outstanding, retired Forest Service research administrators to give the university the benefit of their talent.

Dean Stoltenberg had an extraordinary ability to bring people together for problem solving in a harmonious way. The 1970s were a tumultuous time in American forestry, particularly in Oregon where industry and environment were coming head to head as sustainable forest practices

and policies were being shaped. Simultaneously chair of the Board of Forestry and Dean of the College of Forestry, Carl took a risk, convincing his reluctant faculty to conduct an objective study of timber harvest and supply trends for the Board of Forestry that raised questions about the viability of a long-term timber supply in Oregon. The study included both public and private lands on large and small family tracts. The study, and resulting discussions, resulted in the *Forestry Program for Oregon* or FPFO, a foundational work that promoted protection of the forestland base and called for intensive forest management by all types of landowners. The FPFO continues to evolve in response to new research and changing public values and it remains the only statewide vision and guidance document pertaining to Oregon's forests.

When it became clear that Southwest Oregon was experiencing widespread failure of forest regeneration efforts, Dean Stoltenberg participated in bringing the research leadership of the university, the federal government and the state agencies together to solve the problem. The FIR (Forestry Intensive Research) program combined basic and applied research in a concentrated effort that played a major role in solving the regeneration problems and provided public assurance that harvested forest areas were being regenerated for future generations.

Carl lost much of his eyesight in 1989-90 and, in 1992, he and Rosemary moved to Tucson, Arizona where he lived until his death in 2001. Continuing to take advantage of opportunities presented, he quickly assumed leadership positions in his community and church in his typically

successful call to make a difference. Carl had served as Lay Leader in several churches over the years, so he became Lay Leader and Chair of the Church Council in a newly forming Methodist church in N.W. Tucson. Church programs and a new building blossomed under his guidance and leadership. He was elected to the board of Directors of Sun City Tucson where he was affectionately awarded the "Peacekeeper Award." He became a mediator for Our Town Family Services. Although his health made it necessary for Carl and Rosemary to curtail the international travel they had enjoyed so much, he continued to ride a bicycle over 50 miles a week until shortly before his death on December 13, 2001.

As Carl's sight diminished, his inner vision remained and his horizons expanded. His life was one of both growth and renewal. He allowed others to light their candle from his, never forgetting that the function of a light is not to be seen but to help others see everything more clearly.

Dean Calabrisi of the Yale Law School once said, "There are two ways of being creative: one can sing or dance or one can create an atmosphere in which great singers or dancers can flourish. The job of a dean is to create that kind of atmosphere for students and teachers."

Carl helped to create a learning and flourishing atmosphere for his family, his college, his university, his state and his nation. But he will be remembered most as a man of character and integrity who served his God and his fellow humans – making a difference for both.

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