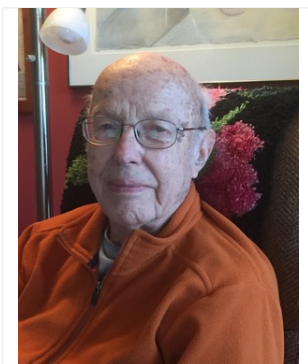


## Frank Porter Hungate

June 6, 1918 - April 18, 2023



Frank Porter Hungate died April 18th in Seattle with family in attendance. He was almost 105 years old, having lived a long and wonderful life. He was born in Cheney, Washington, in 1918, grandson of James Hungate who signed the Washington State Constitution, and youngest of five boys born to Joseph Wynne Hungate, a biology professor at Eastern Normal School, and Winona. After growing up in Cheney and starting college there, he moved to Austin where his brother was teaching microbiology at the University of Texas. In his brother's biology lab, he met the lab assistant, Mary Virginia, who was to be the love of his life. After he graduated from the U of T, he went into a doctoral program at Stanford. He and Mary Virginia (Mollie) were married in 1941 and she joined him in graduate studies under Dr. George Beadle, a later Nobel Prize Winner. After finishing graduate studies in 1946, the family moved to Portland, Oregon, where Frank taught at Reed College. In 1952, Frank was offered a job at Hanford and the family moved to Richland, Washington, where they lived in government housing until 1955 when they built a house on 2 acres of land in Kennewick. They lived in that house for 38 years, raising 4 children and establishing strong friendships in the community. Frank continued to work in the field of biology, first with General Electric and later with Battelle. His field of research was exploring the utilization of low dose radiation in prevention of organ rejection and as an alternative to insecticides in food safety. He was chosen to advise scientists in Greece on initiating nuclear research and, as a result, the family lived in Athens for a year in 1960-61. Many weeks in summer were spent at a family log cabin on Priest Lake in northern Idaho. In 1982, a vacation house was built on property on the north side of the lake. After retiring in 1994, Mollie and Frank moved from the Tri-Cities to Seattle. They became part of a multi-generational household with their daughter's family. Many summers were spent at Priest Lake and traveling, exploring almost every corner of the world during their more than 72 years of marriage. Both of them appreciated the wide variety of cultures and customs in the countries they visited, creating memories to share with family and friends upon return from their adventures. Mollie passed in 2013 but Frank continued to spend time at Priest Lake as well as remaining a participant in the Women's University Club in downtown Seattle. He was always welcomed by the social bridge group and mahjong players and looked forward to his games at the Club. He was an unapologetically positive individual, making connections and impacting those who knew him, whether they were friends or family. Through almost 105 years of life, he was witness to immense changes from horse and buggy to electric cars; washboard and wringer laundry to electric washing machines and dryers. He learned penmanship in school and recently became proficient at word processing on his iPad. He could split roof shingles, make a loaf of bread, plumb and wire a house, and was chopping wood last summer. He leaves a legacy of a great love of family and interest in the world around him. He is survived by his children, Frank II (Florence, OR), Jess (Toronto, ON), Bonnie (Seattle, WA) and Tom (West Richland, WA), ten grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. A Celebration of Life will be held in August. Donations may be made in his memory to the Women's University Club or arts organization of your choice.



No Events Scheduled At This Time