



George Brown Leach, Jr.

September 1, 1944 - December 14, 2017

George Brown Leach, Jr., 73, of Bloomington, peacefully stopped breathing in his wife, Swallow's arms at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana with his dear son, Edward, holding his hand on Thursday, December 14, 2017.

George was born on September 1, 1944, in Lexington, Kentucky; the son of the late George Leach, Sr. and Francis Scott Leach.

George graduated from Country Day School in Louisville Kentucky in 1962. He later graduated from Amherst College in 1966. George obtained his Master's Degree and P.H.D. from Indiana University where he majored in English. George taught English, British, and American Literature and Philosophy. George taught at different universities in the United States, China and in Germany. In 1981, he was sent by Indiana University to teach graduate students at Shandong University in China. In 1982, he received a full-bright senior lecture. During his teaching career, one of his Chinese students whom he taught, received the National Book Award for the novel, *Waiting* by Ha Jin. Another student during his teaching tenure, had become an endowed chair at Cornell University. In 1983, George brought a Chinese girl across two borders, who has been his sweetest wife of 34 years.

George was a man with faith and a noble heart, and a true intellectual with superb taste but did not fit the world. Yet, George found peace with God and lived each day rich in spirit and a very humble life. George was a member of St. Charles Catholic Church, where he lectured and ran a Catholic Book Club. He liked to grow herbs for his wife, collect fine and interesting China from

GoodWill, and treasured intelligent conversations. He was a loyal UK fan since he was five years old, until the day he was put on the life support. George is survived by his wife, Swallow Liu Leach; son, Edward Miller; in-laws, Liu Huang, Liu Ben, Liu Bing, and Mireille Leach; nephews, George F. Leach, and John Leach; great-niece, Alyse Whitcomb; and great-nephew, Nick Whitcomb.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and brother, Rice Leach.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 22, 2017 at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church. Family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. until the time of Mass. Allen Funeral Home and Crematory, 4155 S. Old State Road 37, Bloomington, have been entrusted with arrangements. You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence to George's family at www.allencares.com

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **22**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
2222 East Third Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
2222 East Third Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Tribute Wall

AP

“ My memories of Brown date from a half century ago. They may seem too trivial for this memorial, but they express Brown's percipience and kindness, which must have made him an effective professor everywhere.

My college hallmate Brown drove me from his home in Louisville through horse country--where we saw a couple Derby winners-- past white board horse fences and grand stone walls so diffrent from ours in New England, because they had been built of smaller stones by slaves. Then we toured the Eastern Kentucky hills, a memorable contrast filled with images of great people in much poverty; logging and coal around many bends.

On the first Saturday in May, our senior year he made us mint juleps for the Kentucky Derby--where his Dad was an executive. May I quote just one example of Brown's perceptive conversation, years later,when he took a job at the U of Georgia; he told me there were sounds in the football stands that did not sound human.

Before that, in 1968, Susan and I visited him and his wife at Tunbridge Wells, Kent, UK; his cousin lived across the road from Penshurst, the "small" country house celebrated by Shakespeare's competitor Ben Jonson in his eponymous poem. Offered tea, I sat on a three-legged stuffed chair, which, when I bent over for a tea cake, tipped. Half a cup of my tea decorated my jacket, the cakes and the rug. Fifty years later I still recall; and despite visiting the UK every year for the last two decades, on the way to our daughter and her family in Milan, and despite researching three books on science and lit at the British Library, no memory of England is more vivid.

As an ungracious American, I took no blame; I immediately accused the antique chair. After that small disaster, we walked the grounds of Penshurst with Brownie as I then called him, but we did not tour the grand Penshurst itself because of the tea spots on my jacket.

Alan Powers - January 07, 2018 at 01:38 AM

RO

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Rev. Fr. Jude Orakwe - January 02, 2018 at 10:05 AM

MS

“ *My sincere condolences to Brownie's family and to Rice, who showed me the kind of warmth and kindness characteristic of the Leaches when we last met. I wish that I had known Brownie as an adult. I'm sure that we would have enjoyed each other's company.*

Michael Sales

Michael Sales - December 20, 2017 at 10:55 AM

CS

“ *Swallow my condolences*

Christopher Stroguiludis (Chris)

Christopher Stroguiludis - December 19, 2017 at 07:29 PM

LB

“ Although we lost touch, Brownie played a huge role during my husband's school years. We were saddened to hear of his death.

The following appeared in the Courier-Journal shortly after my grandmother died in 1978. May it be a comfort to you, too.

*After the worst has happened
With nothing left to fear
The sun continues rising
With undiminished cheer
And winds continue blowing
And skies continue fair
As hearts continue bearing
The things they could not bear.*

Author unknown

Laurie and Barret Birnsteel

Laurie Birnsteel - December 18, 2017 at 06:06 PM