

**William Thiessen**

William Thiessen

Oak Ridge, TN

William Ernest Thiessen, of Oak Ridge, went home to be with the Lord on June 4, 2015. Bill was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on September 17, 1934, to Gustav W. Thiessen and Dorothy Claire Johnson Thiessen. Survivors include Bill's wife, Kathleen Lou Moore Thiessen; and his son, Karl Howard Thiessen (Lisa), of Daly City, California.

Bill held both a bachelor's degree and a doctoral degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He also did graduate work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Bill taught chemistry at the [University of Washington](#) and the University of California, Davis, prior to joining the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where he spent most of his career as a research chemist. Bill concentrated on x-ray and neutron diffraction and authored a number of scientific papers describing molecular and crystal structures of organic compounds. He also spent a sabbatical year at the University of Alberta at Edmonton. Following his retirement from ORNL, Bill worked at the Office of Scientific and Technical Information in Oak Ridge and with the PAI Corporation.

Bill played tuba in the Oak Ridge Community Band, the Oak Ridge Symphony Orchestra, the Lower New York Avenue Harmonium, and a variety of other area ensembles. A highlight of his time with the Lower New York Avenue Harmonium was a performance with the Empire Brass Quintet, in Oak Ridge. Bill taught trombone, baritone, and tuba for many years, and his former students include two professional musicians. Bill also contributed to a compilation of tuba literature for high school students in the 1996 edition of The Tuba Source Book. Bill was a member of West Hills Presbyterian Church in Harriman, Tennessee. He was previously a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church, in Oak Ridge, where he served as a deacon, and Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, in Knoxville. Bill had an active interest in a variety of fields, including theology, science, music, and baseball. He traveled extensively with his wife and enjoyed attending concerts in many countries. Bill also enjoyed his involvement in Back to Basics in Oak Ridge.

A private burial service was held at the Oak Ridge Memorial Park. A memorial service will be held Wednesday, June 17, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. at West Hills Presbyterian Church, in Harriman, Tennessee, with the Rev. Jeffrey Jenkins officiating. Any memorials may be made to West Hills Presbyterian Church or the Oak Ridge Community Band. Online messages may be left for the family at [www.martinfuneralhomeoakridge.com](http://www.martinfuneralhomeoakridge.com). Martin Oak Ridge Funeral Home is serving the Thiessen family.

**Funeral Home****Martin Oak Ridge Funeral Home**

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