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Dr. Klaude Kendrick, Evangel University's first president, passes away

Current president is second longest-tenured college president in the USA

SPRINGFIELD, MO — Dr. Klaude Kendrick, 93, the first president of Evangel University, passed away Saturday, Aug. 28, 2010, at 3:30 a.m. He was at his home in Fayetteville, Ark.

Dr. Kendrick served as Evangel's president from its opening in 1955 until the spring of 1958, then served two more years as academic dean of what was then Evangel College.

A private family burial was held on Tuesday, Aug. 31, in Rogers, Ark.

A public memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 4, at First Assembly of God Church in Springdale, Ark. Dr. Robert H. Spence, Evangel's current president, will be the speaker.

"Dr. Kendrick was a gifted leader, a visionary and a Godly man," said Spence. "He helped establish a foundation for Evangel which has served us well for more than a half century.

"Through the years, Dr. Kendrick emerged as a great statesman for Christian higher education. He maintained a high interest in Evangel throughout the rest of his life, attending major events on campus each year. I consider it a deep honor to have had him as a mentor and a friend," Spence added.

Dr. Kendrick was born June 5, 1917. He was preceded in death by a son, Karl, and his first wife, Grace. He is survived by their daughter, Karen Thompson, of Fort Smith, Ark., and his second wife, Mable.

Following Kendrick, Dr. J. Robert Ashcroft served as the second president of Evangel from 1958 to 1974. Dr. Robert H. Spence has served as Evangel's third president since May 1974.

Dr. Spence is in his 37th year as president of Evangel. He is the longest-tenured college president in the state of Missouri, and research indicates that he is the second longest-tenured college president in the USA.

Evangel is the national Assemblies of God university of arts, sciences and professions, offering more than 100 undergrad programs and eight masters degree programs. More than 2,000 students enroll annually from all 50 states and numerous foreign countries.

For more information, visit <http://www.evangel.edu>, or call (417) 865-2811.

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PHOTO CAPTION: This photo was taken at Evangel's Homecoming in 1988. (L-to-R) Dr. Klaude Kendrick, Evangel's first president, 1955-1958; Dr. Robert H. Spence, current president since 1974 and the second longest-tenured college president in the USA; and Dr. J. Robert Ashcroft, second president, 1958-1974.

KENDRICK BIOGRAPHY

Klaude Kendrick, born June 5, 1917, in Arizona near the Mexican border, was privileged to attend the laboratory school of Arizona State University in Tempe. He credits that with his excellent education, which helped him progress in the field of higher education.

After high school, Kendrick enrolled in Southwestern Bible Institute (now Southwestern Assemblies of God University), then located in Enid, Okla. His education was furthered at Texas Wesleyan, Texas Christian (MA), and **University of Texas (PhD)**. He returned to his first *alma mater* as teacher, dean of men, business manager and vice president, successively.

His achievements at a sister school caught the attention of the group establishing Evangel College. He was selected the first president of the new Assemblies of God college in Springfield, Mo. Kendrick served in that position from the opening of the college in 1955 until the spring of 1958. During the 1956-57 academic year, he was instrumental in gaining recognition for Evangel's academic program from the University of Missouri Committee on Accredited Schools. Following his term as president, Kendrick became the academic dean of the college for two years.

In 1960, he returned to Southwestern as its president, serving there until 1964. From 1964-1977 he taught history at Texas Wesleyan College, was dean at Southern California College (now Vanguard University) from 1977-1979, and concluded his educational career as president of the Far East Advanced School of Theology in the Philippines from 1984-86.

In retirement, he and his wife, Mable, lived in Arkansas, close enough to Evangel that he was usually present at significant events of the University. His close ties to the school have brought a sense of continuity to the University.

For additional information: <http://www.evangel.edu/Library/Archives/KKLibrary.asp>