

Jeanie Borlaug Laube – Speech, Uganda.



Good evening,

Thank you for inviting my daughter and myself to this wonderful conference and celebration of my father's 100 birthday.

It has been a year of celebration starting with India continuing to Pakistan, Mexico , Washington D. C

where his home state of Iowa placed his statue in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol

and will be celebrated in Des Moines this fall at the World Food Prize, and now in Africa.

This is my first visit to Uganda

and second to Africa. I have been asked to give you some memories of my Dad and I will give you

My thoughts and perspectives about him from a very personal view. He was my "Daddy" no

matter how old he was or I was. My brother and I were raised in Mexico where we

Had a wonderful multi-cultural upbringing.

As many of you know, my father was a very successful, but a very humble person.

He was raised on a small farm in Iowa, a farming state in the breadbasket of the USA.

He helped his father and grandfather farm their small acreage. He learned

His work ethic from both of them. He was taught to work hard, be honest, and

Have compassion for those less fortunate than himself and he passed these ideal

On to my brother and myself.

He was a Scientist, humanitarian and a teacher. He believed that education was

one of the most important things a parent could give to their children. He would

Tell me that "Education is the one thing that nobody can take away from you. You can

Lose all your worldly possession but not your knowledge." It was understood that we

Would both go to college, but he never pressured us to go to a college of his choice

Or major in something other than what we desired.

My father did not belong to my dear Mother or my brother or myself, he belonged to the the World.

He was gone most of the time, but he knew that my mother was capable

of taking care of the home.

Nevertheless he always made time for

Our graduations, weddings or other important events. He started Little League in

Mexico for my brother, and helped with my Girl Scout troop. He would send us post cards

from all over the world and would always bring us a small mementous from his world travels.

Every two years we would return to the United States for vacation.

We would pile into the car and drive thousands of miles across the US visiting National Parks and relatives.

We would stop and see Major League Baseball games

and eat "Dairy Cream ". It was some much fun for the four of us to be together.

Daddy was close to his 5 grandchildren and played with 5 of his great -gran children

My mother died right after we found out that my dad had cancer so I was very much

Involved in his life for his last two years. I took him to all of Dr.'s appointments and

Monitored his medical care. When the Dr. told him that he had terminal cancer, he

Thought for a moment and then said to the Dr. " I need to have at least 8 more years.

I have a lot of work to do in Africa." The Dr. looked at him and said, we will try.

**Unfortunately he only got two years,
But I treasure those years because I saw
him every**

Day.

When we found out that Daddy only had a few days to live, he became very pensive

and quiet. I said to him, "daddy, what can I do for you?" He replied I have a problem,

I said, what is it , he said, "Africa, I have not finished my mission in Africa."

The last words that he said before leaving us was "take it to the farmer." he was

**Not worried about leaving our family,
but rather leaving his African Family.**

**Ryochi Sasakawa, President Carter and
Daddy wished to eradicate hunger and
poverty in**

**Sub-Saharan African continent and their
legacy for their inspirational work, and
hopes**

and dignity for million of small scale farmers across the African continent will be

Continued by Yohei Sasakawa and Ruth Oniango and all of you the Hunger Fighters.

As Ruth has said, "Global Peace should be a priority for the world to maintain any

hope of feeding itself."

**Keep up the good work, and as my
father would say, "Reach for the stars"
you all are**

his Hunger Fighters.