

***Keith & Eileen Van Vliet:
A Couple Committed to Health***



It's true that a picture can say a thousand words. Such is the case with a Norman Rockwell plate on display in Keith and Eileen Van Vliet's Glendora living room.

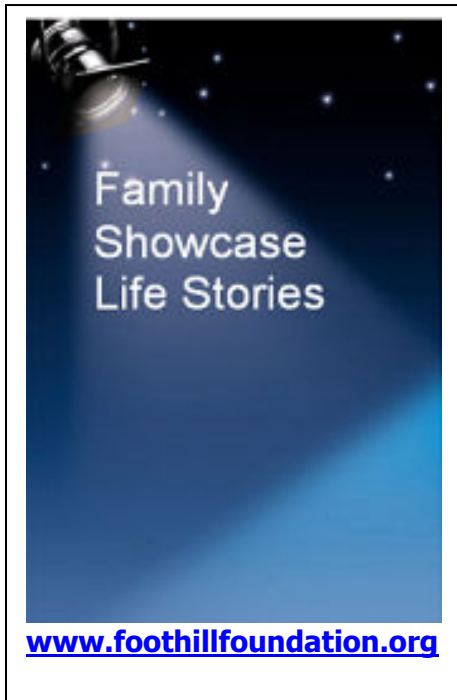
Featuring a new father and grandparents admiring a newborn in a hospital nursery, the plate is a fitting

one for the Van Vliets to display for several reasons. Presented to Eileen Van Vliet upon her retirement, it commemorates Eileen's career as a labor and delivery nurse. It illustrates Keith Van Vliet's service to Foothill Presbyterian Hospital as well as his interest in alternative medicine. And, it symbolizes the future, with the couple's grandson currently pursuing admission to medical school.

The Van Vliets met at a teen church group in Bell, California. Keith entered the U.S. Army Air Force, where he was planning to train as a fighter pilot. Eventually transferred to Victorville near the end of the war, he and Eileen married days after her 18th birthday.

Living in Victorville through the end of World War II, the couple then lived with Keith's parents for a few months, largely due to the post-war housing shortage. They eventually moved to Downey, with Keith building the first of three homes the couple has owned over the years.

Foothill Presbyterian Hospital



Keith's entire professional career was spent in the building industry. Initially employed by a real estate development company, he began his own business in 1957. While the majority of his career was spent building commercial properties (including the Foothill Independent Bank building on Grand Avenue in Glendora), he also spent several years building residential homes. In fact, he built several homes for Rainbird employees, including a home for a retiree that was a gift from Rainbird founder Mary LaFetra. "I truly believe Keith's professional success was due to his reputation as an honest builder," comments Eileen.

The family moved to Glendora in 1958, initially residing in a Better Homes and Gardens Design House that Keith had built the year before. In 1963, they moved to their current residence.

The parents of a son and daughter who both live in Southern California, the Van Vliets also have three grown grandchildren—a granddaughter in Seattle who's a graduate of the University of Washington, a granddaughter pursuing a masters' degree at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and their grandson, a U.C. Santa

Barbara graduate in the process of applying to medical school. "We are very involved in our grandchildren's education, and are immensely proud of their accomplishments," states Eileen.

A long-time member of the Glendora Rotary, Keith continues to be an active Rotarian following his 1995 retirement from the construction industry. The couple attended the Rotary International Convention in Barcelona, Spain in 2002, followed by a cruise down the coast of Italy. In 2005, their extended family traveled to the Big Island of Hawaii for their Seattle-based granddaughter's wedding, as well as to celebrate their own sixtieth wedding anniversary.

Retired from nursing in 1984, Eileen was very involved in ABC Quilts, an organization that supplies hospitals with hand-crafted baby quilts for infants with AIDS, from 1988 through 1994. She served as coordinator for 11 western states, collecting and distributing more than 15,000 baby quilts during that time. Currently, she knits hats for chemotherapy patients, a program sponsored by the American Red Cross. She has also personally created and given more than 250 quilts as gifts over the years.

Keith was asked to serve on the Foothill Presbyterian Hospital Board of Directors before there was a hospital to direct. He was part of the board when the plans for the present building was developed, and named chairman of the board during the hospital's construction.

Foothill Presbyterian Hospital

“The early days of Foothill Presbyterian Hospital were fraught with a low census and worries about cash flow,” comments Keith. “Fortunately, our financing had contingency funds available for such conditions. I remember a hurried, one-day flight to Minneapolis with then-administrator Don Adams, so that we could secure cash to make payroll that week.” After seven one-year terms as chairman, Keith retired from the hospital board, but soon became involved in the formation of the Foothill Foundation.

SOUTHWEST SPECTACULAR

By Keith Van Vliet

**Suddenly they appear!
Brilliant bursts of yucca blossoms
populate the hillsides and canyons
their blazing silhouettes unfurled
against the myriad pyramids
of loosely folded purple hills.
Every year we are gifted
with this amazing display
snowy blooms contrasted
against the browns and greens
of lower growing chaparral.
It is an announcement,
a proclamation,
that even desert lands
have their decorations.**

- One of Keith's many poetic creations

In addition to his involvement with Foothill Presbyterian Hospital, Keith served as president of both the Glendora Rotary and the local builders' association in 1965. He also served on the Los Angeles County Mental Health Advisory Board for two terms, and has been involved with the Glendora Library Foundation Board of Directors, the American Red Cross, and the California Poetry Society.

Keith's interest in health care extends to a deep interest in alternative medicine. “I've been pleased to see concepts such as biofeedback—which began in alternative medicine circles—be accepted into mainstream medicine in recent years,” states Keith. He is also a poet (with a self-published book for poetry to his credit) and a photographer (a book featuring his photography is also in the works).

As charter members of the Foundation's Endowment Society, Keith and Eileen have included Foothill Presbyterian Hospital in their estate plans. “We've been active supporters of the hospital over the decades, and were pleased to participate in the Friends for Life emergency room campaign,” states Keith. “We have also included the Foothill Foundation in our will and urge other local citizens to do the same.”