

# Hurricane forecast pioneer Bill Gray dead at age 86

April 16 2016

---

Bill Gray, a pioneer in hurricane forecasting, died Saturday in Fort Collins, according to his longtime assistant. He was 86.

Phil Klotzbach said Gray began researching hurricanes in 1984, long before national [hurricane](#) forecasters began publishing their forecasts.

"His research on hurricanes was remarkable. He was one of the first researchers to determine why hurricanes were global, looking at water-temperature patterns and [wind shear](#)," Klotzbach said.

In addition to his research, Gray also published seasonal hurricane forecasts, predicting the number and severity of hurricanes in the Atlantic Ocean.

Gray retired from his faculty post at Colorado State University in 2005, but he continued hurricane and climate research as a professor emeritus until his death, Klotzbach said. He was head of the university's Tropical Meteorology Project and won the Neil Frank Award of the National Hurricane Conference in 1995 for his research contributions.

Gray got his start as a weather forecast officer for the U.S. Air Force in 1953. He earned a doctorate in geophysical sciences from the University of Chicago, and he joined the new Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University in 1961.

Gray had a major impact on meteorology, with more than 70 of his

graduate students now in the field, Klotzbach said.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

© 2016 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Hurricane forecast pioneer Bill Gray dead at age 86 (2016, April 16) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-04-hurricane-bill-gray-dead-age.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.