



Richard Clement Wood

APR 16, 1925 - MAR 4, 2014



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Richard Clement Wood of Memphis, former Professor of English at Rhodes College, died at St. Francis Hospital Bartlett on Tuesday, March 4, 2014. Mr. Wood was the son of the late Frank Taylor Wood and the late Ramona Johnson Wood, and husband of Virginia Peoples Wood, who died in 1966 and Beth Walton Wood, who died in 1998. He leaves a son, Matt Wood of Nashville, a daughter and son-in-law, Suzannah and Stephen Lang of Memphis, a grandson, William Lang of Knoxville, and two granddaughters, Virginia and Laura Lang of Memphis. Mr. Wood was born in Rockford, Illinois, on April 16, 1925. He grew up in and around Memphis, and was a 1943 graduate of Central High School. He served his country in World War II in the Army Air Corps, stationed in Italy and North Africa as an airplane mechanic. After completing his brave service, he received his BA at Southwestern at Memphis (Rhodes College), graduating in 1948 where he was a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity and was inducted in the honor society Phi Beta Kappa. He studied at Columbia University in New York, where he earned his MA in English and continued his graduate studies at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Mr. Wood's long teaching career began at Lepanto High School in Lepanto, AR, continued at The University of Mississippi and at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia. He taught English at his alma mater, Rhodes College from 1967 until his retirement in 1988. After retirement, Mr. Wood became deeply and happily involved in a wide variety of things he loved. He volunteered at Youth Villages, reading to kids, served as a hospice volunteer, taught a writing class for senior citizens at McWhirter Senior Center, where he was also active in the chorus and the Spanish class. For many years he was literary editor and columnist for the Magnolia Gazette in Magnolia, MS, writing regular book and film reviews. He was a member of All Saints Episcopal Church. He travelled widely, across the country and the world until his health began to limit his mobility. Mr. Wood was the Editor of *Collector's Quest: The Correspondence of*



Obituary

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Henry Miller and J. Rives Childs, published in 1968 and was the author of Keeper of the Dream, published in 2010, a collection of his poetry. Mr. Wood loved beautiful words and well-crafted writing. He shared that love passionately with his many students. He loved to laugh at a good joke and a funny movie. He loved a good long hike in the woods and an ice cold 40. He will be missed. The family will receive friends 5-7 p.m., Sunday, March 9 and memorial services will be held at 2:30 p.m., Monday, March 10 at Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery. The family requests any donations be sent to Rhodes College or the charity of the donor's choice. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery, 5668 Poplar Ave. Memphis, TN 38119, (901)767-8930, "Behind the Stone Wall"



Tribute Wall

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NB

Nancy Sugg Bracher posted:

When I think of Rhodes College (Southwestern at Memphis) I think of Professor Wood. He epitomized a truly fine liberal arts education, and his devotion to and fervor for communicating the value of literature was unmatched. I will always remember his Southern Literature class, and to this day cannot read William Faulkner without hearing his voice behind the words. Though he no longer is physically with us, his positive influence lives on and thrives in the souls of those students lucky enough to have had him for an educator. Peace and condolences to the family. Nancy Sugg Bracher

March 10 at 4:39 AM

CC

Carolyn Cockroft posted:

Some losses are felt too deep for words. I will never have another teacher like Prof. Wood. His impassioned lectures resonated with me through the years and influenced my own years of teaching poetry to my students. -Carolyn Cockroft

March 10 at 4:29 AM

PA

Patrice posted:

Professor Wood was my absolute favorite professor when I attended Southwestern in the early 80's. He taught my very first class in 1982 – a Freshman course in Folklore. I went on to take everything he offered – creative writing and children's literature were among my favorites. He was passionate about what learning and creativity really mean, and why a college education is important. Not about getting a job that pays more money, but about an expanded world view. I've never seen a more passionate educator. I can say I truly loved him.

March 10 at 3:29 AM

HP

H. Scott Prosterman posted:

Professor Richard Wood was one of my favorite teachers at Rhodes College (Southwestern at Memphis) in the 70's. I particularly enjoyed his Poetry Workshop my senior year, and was blessed to enjoy his teaching and nurturing as a student. In those days, professors sometimes had social events around seminars at their homes, and Dick was always a gracious host. He was a wonderful and trusted friend. Condolences to his family.

March 8 at 8:23 AM



Tribute Wall

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TE

Terry posted:

Professor Wood.....adored the written word, an affirming and encouraging teacher, cared deeply about his students, a great servant....an even greater man. Rest In Peace Professor Wood.

March 8 at 6:33 AM

BR

Brooks Robey posted:

Professor Wood was without peer, challenging and leaving an indelible mark on so many grateful Rhodes alumni. Thank you for sharing him. — RBR, Class of '81

March 8 at 6:02 AM

LE

Leslie posted:

My love and prayers are with you all. I am honored to have known such a sweet man.

March 7 at 11:43 AM

AW

Ann H. Welch posted:

Light candle for my dear, dear friend Dr. Wood. Also, for my daughter Joy Welch who learned her love for literature from her classes at Rhodes taught by Dr. Wood. With sympathy, Ann Welch

March 7 at 10:24 AM

NO

Norma posted:

My condolences and prayers to the families. The only one that can comfort the family at this time is our heavenly Father through his Word the Bible. It's the truth and he says that there is going to be a resurrection for both the righteous and the unrighteous Acts 24:15

March 7 at 6:47 AM

MP

Memorial Park posted:

Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Richard Clement Wood.

March 6 at 4:33 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Richard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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