



John Raynor Woodard Jr.

May 16, 1939 - March 14, 2021

On March 12, 2021, John Raynor Woodard, Jr., enjoyed his last bowl of popcorn and his last milkshake, and he watched Jeopardy with his grandsons. On the morning of March 14, he died peacefully at home from bladder cancer. We will gather informally outdoors at the home on Sunday, March 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. Please mask, maintain social distance, and dress for being outside. A memorial service will be held at Germanton Baptist Church on June 20, 2021, at 2 p.m.

John was born May 16, 1939, to Sally Bernice Norris and John Raynor Woodard, Sr., and spent his first year in Fair Bluff, NC. In 1940, the young family moved to Conway, NC, in Northampton County, to live near the Woodard family. There, Johnny's third grade teacher famously tied him in a chair to keep him from moving to a corner to read history books during math lessons. Nevertheless, he graduated from Conway High School in 1957. At Wake Forest College, he played in the marching band, and graduated in 1961.

After working two years at the State Archives of North Carolina, Wake Forest invited him to become the director of the Ethel Taylor Crittenden Collection of Baptist History. A few years later, he was also made University Archivist. He put many miles on his cars traveling the state to speak to congregations and collect papers from retired ministers and missionaries. John was active in many archival and history organizations, including the Historical Society of North Carolina, and he built the Baptist Collection into a well-regarded archive before retiring in 2001.

He also served in the Vietnam War with the 312th Field Hospital Unit, and he retired from the U.S. Army Reserves with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

He married Linda Wilson in 1971. They moved to Germanton and lived in the same house until he died. John was a faithful member of Germanton Baptist Church where he sang in the choir for almost fifty years and taught Sunday School. He loved Civil War history, Sherlock Holmes, reading, playing the piano by ear, and watching TV. He held Wake Forest football tickets from 1969 until his death and had been a basketball season ticket holder for many years. He helped found the Germanton Park and the Germanton Ruritan Club, and in his retirement, he was a dedicated volunteer at the East Stokes Outreach Ministry. He was a kind man who was gentle with animals, funny with babies, and loved his family. He loved slapstick comedy, puns, and making his family laugh at quick quips

and asides told under his breath.

He is survived by his wife, Linda, of the home, and their daughter, Sarah Woodard David, and grandsons, Joseph Doc "Jed" David and Macon Raynor David, of Raleigh. He is also survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Jimmy and Phyllis Woodard of Rolesville, and his sister-in-law, Judy Wilson, of Fuquay-Varina. His nieces and nephews, Andy Woodard, Tamara Norman, and Jimmy Wilson, and their families also survive him. His former son-in-law, Eric David, also survives.

Memorial contributions can be made to the East Stokes Outreach Ministry, PO Box 973, Walnut Cove, NC, 27052; the Stokes County Historical Society, PO Box 304, Danbury, NC, 27016; or the John 3:16 Center, PO Box 1541, Littleton, NC, 27850, earmarked for the Rich Square office.

Online Condolences may be made at www.burroughsfuneralhome.com

Burroughs Funeral Home, Walnut Cove is honored to be serving the Woodard family.

Comments



“ Dear Mrs. Woodard and Sarah,

I was very sorry to hear of John's passing. I worked with John for a number of years as a member of the S.C.V. and D.C.V. John's love of history in general and Civil War history in particular was apparent and he was very knowledgeable about both. John was always a very pleasant person to be around and to talk to. He and I had many many wonderful conversations that I will always cherish. I don't know of anyone that knew John that didn't like him. He was a good Christian gentleman who loved his family, his church and our alma mater, Wake Forest University. I know he will be greatly missed. God speed old friend!

Mark W. Young
Walnut Cove, N.C.

MARK W. YOUNG - March 18 at 05:17 PM



“ Our heartfelt sympathies to Mrs Woodard and family. The Hill Family. Benny, Karen, Chris and Benji

Karen Hill - March 16 at 06:52 PM



“ To all the family -

You all are in my prayers. I am grateful to have known Mr Woodard since my undergrad years at Wake Forest (81-85). He was a great help to me then, as well as later when doing research for the 200th anniversary of the French Broad Baptist Church in Hendersonville, NC in 1989-1990. His quiet commitment to service and dedication to helping others were good examples for me, and I am a better person because of him.

James A. Garrison, Arden, NC

James Garrison - March 16 at 05:03 PM



“ Johnny was my first roommate at Wake Forest. I started with summer school in 1959. He was a rising junior and gave my good advice. I'm not surprised to see he lived a good and purposeful life. May he Rest In Peace.
Bob Freeman
Class of '63

Robert Alexander Freeman III - March 16 at 10:53 AM



“ Linda and family so sorry to hear about your loss. You will be in my prayers.

Wanda Tarlton - March 15 at 03:02 PM



“ John was a special person, the type of neighbor that made you smile when you saw him from a distance, and then laugh and smile more when you spoke with him. We will miss him tremendously - The Smith's

Tommy Smith - March 15 at 03:26 PM



“ So sorry to hear of John's passing. He was a very special and knowledgeable man. We had lots of fun discussing our interests in the American Civil War and for that I will truly miss him.

John and Lina Mathis - March 15 at 09:36 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Woodard.



March 15 at 10:51 AM