



Arthur Wellington Swarthout

May 23, 1933 - February 9, 2023

Rev. Arthur W. Swarthout

Arthur Wellington Swarthout, 89, after a long struggle with dementia, passed away peacefully, Thursday, February 9 at Aston Park Health Care Center in Asheville, NC. The family wants to express their appreciation for the support, safety, and care of Arthur during these last 6 years at Brooks-Howell Retirement Home and Aston Park Health and Care Center.

Art was born as the second child of John W. Swarthout and Helen Murphy Swarthout on May 23, 1933, in Seneca Falls, New York, and grew up in the Finger Lake Region. His early years were on a dairy farm along Seneca Lake given to his ancestor after serving in the Revolutionary War. Some of that land is now Seneca Falls State Park.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his older brother John W. Swarthout, Jr. Art is survived by his wife, United Methodist Deaconess/Diaconal Minister Elizabeth (Betty) Lindsay Swarthout of 65 plus years; son Mark W. Swarthout (Cathy), daughters, Dr. Mary B. Swarthout, Sarah J. Swarthout Howard (Thom). Twin granddaughters; Lindsay R. Swarthout and Heather A. Swarthout.

His education included Ithaca High School, Ithaca NY; West Virginia

Wesleyan College with an AB Degree in English; Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary with an M. Div. Degree specializing in Christian Education; University of Maryland School of Library and Information Science, MLS.

Art was ordained as a Deacon (1955) and an Elder (1959) of The Methodist Church in Central New York Conference. He has had appointments during his 67 years in the Central New York, Pittsburgh, Baltimore/Maryland, West Virginia, and Nebraska United Methodist Annual Conferences by serving as: Associate Pastor, Certified Minister of Christian Education, Assistant Professor, and Assistant Librarian at West Virginia Wesleyan College; Assistant Professor, Senior Librarian and Chairperson, Media Education program at Alderson-Broaddus College (American Baptist); Assistant General Secretary, General Commission on Archives and History of The United Methodist Church; Coordinator of the Custer County United Methodist Parish with 2 additional Elders and a Diaconal Minister/Deaconess in Nebraska Annual Conference. In retirement appointment, Art relates to the Great Plains Annual Conference.

During his ministry Art also served on 2 School Boards, was active in the West Virginia local and State PTA, Ministerial Associations, and Lions Club, and was active in causes that would affect families, especially children. He and Betty directed church camps at several of the annual conferences. He spent 2 summers as Protestant Chaplain at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

Through the years Art loved to write and edit newsletters, wrote Youth and Adult Church Curriculum for The United Methodist Church, and letters to the editors, and while at the Commission on Archives and History, he developed and organized the beginning of United Methodist Historical Society, and established and coordinated the first Annual Historical Convocations.

Art retired in 1997 when he and Betty moved to their property at Lake Junaluska, NC. He was active with the Junaluskans, Haywood Christian Ministries, Haywood County and North Carolina Friends of Public Libraries, served over 10 years as a Guardian ad Litem, delivered weekly Meals on Wheels for over 6 years, Director of the World Methodist Museum, and the United Methodist Southeast Jurisdiction Heritage Center at Lake Junaluska. He wrote a weekly religious column printed in The Mountaineer newspaper, in Haywood County, NC for over six years.

His other interests were family, parliamentary procedure, writing, reading, family camping, directing Church camps, Chaplain at Boy Scout camps, and 2 summers as Protestant Chaplain at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, church libraries, and traveling.

Memorial Service will be held at 3:00 pm on Monday, March 13, 2023, in the Chapel at Brooks-Howell Retirement Home, 266 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville, NC. with Chaplain Rev. Alycia Johnson and Rev. Gerald Davis.

In lieu of flowers please considered in memorials to either West Virginia Wesleyan College memo note Library to: Development Office, 59 College Avenue, Buckhannon, WV 26201 or to Lake Junaluska Assembly, Development Office, 91 N. Lakeshore Dr., P.O. Box 67, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745 for the preservation and care of the Howard Chandler Christy painting, "The Commissioning".

Morris Funeral Home is caring for the Swarthout family. A message of comfort may be made to the family under obituaries at MorrisFamilyCare.com. The service will be available on a link soon after the memorial service on March 13, 2023.

Cemetery Details

East Lawn Cemetery Association

934 Mitchell Street
Ithaca, NY 14850

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 13. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Brooks Howell Home
266 Merrimon Avenue
Asheville, NC 28801
<http://www.brooks-howell.org>

Tribute Wall

ED

“ I have just become aware of the passing of a dear and respected friend, Art Swarthout. I met Art when he was one of my librarianship teachers at West Virginia Wesleyan College. He had so much energy and enthusiasm for all that he did, and that was a lot. He was involved with many organizations outside of his college responsibilities. A few years later we got in touch when we were both working with the Church and Synagogue Librarians Association. Even later, we were in touch about church history and his move to Junaluska. I'm sorry to hear of his journey through dementia; that had to be very difficult to see in someone so gifted. I am currently caring for my husband who also has dementia. I look forward to the grand reunion in Heaven someday! Blessings to the family, and sincere condolences. Betty Grosvenor Donaldson (Wesleyan class of 1970)

Elizabeth R Donaldson - February 27, 2024 at 01:52 PM



“ Arthur Wellington Swarthout

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Arthur Wellington Swarthout.



February 28, 2023 at 05:11 PM

LA

“ Dear Betts,
Sending Sincere Heartfelt Condolences.
It was a such a pleasure knowing Arthur, allowing myself and others
a glimpse of his past which usually included His Mother and Father.
I miss our talks and when he was in a jovial mood.
Please know that He was Happy Betts and thoroughly enjoyed
talking to you.It always made His day.
Arthur was A One of a Kind Boisterous Man, never missing an
opportunity to talk to anyone that would listen. He is greatly missed
walking the halls and just being Arthur. There is a great sense of
absence, He certainly will not be forgotten.
You're in Our Thoughts and Prayers
Sincerely,
Laura and All Staff at Aston Park.

Laura - February 18, 2023 at 11:54 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of
Arthur Wellington Swarhout.



February 18, 2023 at 10:17 PM

IC

“ I am saddened to hear about Art's death. It was a privilege to know him and to work along side him in the SEJ Commission on Archives and History and the UM Historical Society. His contributions to the Ministry of Memory are huge in my estimation. Our prayers go out for his family. Rev. Ivan G. Corbin, President of The Historical Society of The UMC

Ivan G. Corbin - February 17, 2023 at 09:00 AM

LJ

“ Blessings to the family.

I was honored to visit with Art when he was Associate GCAH secretary and came out to NC Jurisdiction and Western Jurisdiction meetings. We loved telling each other our stories. I'm sure he and Chuck are doing the same.

Regards, Lyle Johnston, Jackson MO

Lyle Johnston - February 16, 2023 at 05:51 PM

BS

*Dear Betty and family, my condolences in the loss of your beloved husband and father. May you feel the Lord's peace and comfort as you grieve and remember the good years. I have fond memories of our time in HS, Betty.
Blessings, Bev Jones Steinsiek*

Beverly Steinsiek - February 18, 2023 at 12:15 PM