



Joseph "Hooker" Wood

April 13, 1948 - May 5, 2018

Joseph Hooker Wood was born April 13, 1948 in Los Angeles, CA, the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Wood, Jr., the first of three children. He started life in Antelope Valley, CA on the family alfalfa farm where he learned to love the desert and the night sky. He completed his education at Southern Methodist University graduating with a BS in Geology in 1970. It was here that he met his wife, Ann Richardson. They married in 1971 and began a life of fun and adventure that took them around the country and the world and produced two wonderful sons, Adam and Zachary, who were an unending source of happiness and pride. As a bonus they brought him daughters-in-law, Erica and Laura, whom he loved as his own, and one of his greatest joys in life, his first grandchild, Ayla Rose, dubbed "sweet pea."

Hooker spent his entire career working in the oil field beginning as a mud engineer for Magcobar in Brewton, AL. and ending as Supply Chain Manager with Occidental Petroleum in Houston, TX. In between he managed operations in the U.S., Australia, Mexico, and Central and Western South America. He enjoyed his work, especially the opportunity it provided for travel and converting business associates into friends.

He retired in 2013, built his dream home on a wooded hillside in Asheville, NC and enjoyed a busy and happy life indulging in all of his favorite pastimes: music, poker, wine, literature classes, senior softball, woodworking, his pup,

Chance, the Houston Astros and travel. He was an active volunteer with the Asheville School Foundation, tutoring 4th graders at Isaac Dickson Elementary School and a committed friend to the Unitarian Universalist of the Swannanoa Valley congregation in Black Mountain. All along he did what he did best; share his enthusiasm for life with everyone he met.

He died in his Asheville home on May 5, 2018. His wife, sons and granddaughter, his mother, Elizabeth, sisters Carolyn and Peggy, survive him. His "In-Law" and extended family and his many friends share their loss.

He was a happy man who loved his life.

Two Memorial Services will be held to celebrate his life:

June 16, 2018 at 2 p.m. at the UUSV, 500 Montreat Rd., Black Mountain, NC

June 23, 2018, at 2 p.m. Emerson UU Church, Houston, TX.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made in Hooker's honor to the Asheville City Schools Foundation, Asheville City School Foundation <https://www.acsf.org/joseph-hooker-wood>

or The Nature Conservancy,

https://support.nature.org/site/Donation2?15001.donation=form1&df_id=15001&resultid=7HV

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN **16**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley
500 Montreat Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711
<http://uusv.org/>

Celebration of Life

JUN **23**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Emerson Unitarian Universalist
1900 Bering
Houston, TX 77057
<http://emersonhouston.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ Joseph "Hooker" Wood

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ Dear Ann. I just saw the death notice in the West Australian of 27 June reporting about Hooker's sudden death. It brought back so many memories of our friendship attending WAIT together. I am so sorry for your loss of that husband of yours who had the most amazing smile and so much enthusiasm for life. Sending love to you now.

Ellen Gude - July 02, 2018 at 07:26 AM



“ Dear Ann,

Judy and I just learned of your loss of Hooker a couple days ago when I learned of his memorial service in the Emersonian. Words can't express our feelings at a time like this. I thus will focus my memories on how you and Hooker made our Ashville 50th anniversary special. You both were thoughtful and well informed tour guides who helped us enjoy the arboretum and the Sunday brunch on top of the mountain. We enjoyed your house and were quite impressed with how you built such a wonderful house in the woods on the side of a hill. You also made sure we saw our transplanted Houston friends the Lambirths and Lanes first at the UU church and then at a reception at the that old hotel. And we have many good memories for when we were Emerson members together. I look forward to seeing you, Ann, at the Emerson memorial service, but Judy can't be there since she still will be at our summer home in Maine. Best wishes . Phil Richardson

Phil Richardson - June 16, 2018 at 06:04 PM

MM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mike McAnelly - June 15, 2018 at 09:03 AM

“ In Memory of Hooker Wood

On the evening of Sunday 6th May, Glenda and I had been chatting about our travel plans for the remainder of the year, including the visit to Australia of Ann and Hooker, meeting up in Sydney on 4th November. For some reason, I checked my emails before sitting down to dinner, only to open Ann's email with the subject of "Sad News" to learn of Hooker's passing. We were understandably shocked and terribly saddened by the loss and the feelings we had for Hooker's close knit family. Just the week before we'd had a Skype chat, they both looked happy and relaxed and were looking forward to getting down to the details of the Australian visit.

We moved to Perth in Western Australia in mid 1973 perhaps only a year after the Woods had arrived. A great friendship was struck up immediately as Hooker and Peter worked together, and we all shared those objectives typical of those in their mid 20's. In early 1974 Hooker consented to become the godfather of our son Michael with whom he forged an enduring bond. Mike was fortunate to visit the Woods in Houston some 15 or so years later joining Ann, Hooker, Adam and Zach a trip to a ranch near Denver, the Grand Canyon and Disneyland. Hooker was staggered at how much a 15 year old boy could eat compared with his own sub-teen sons. While living in Perth, the Woods frequently visited their home country. We recall a time when they went home leaving their large red setter dog with us for some time. Our elder daughter's development of walking skills was delayed somewhat as every time she stood up, Clarry the setter would either bowl her over or flatten her with her tail.

Later, in 2007, the most recent visit from the Woods, they visited to attend the wedding of our younger daughter in Hobart, it was a great chance for all our family to catch up with them, even if too briefly, but it was a precursor to our visit to Asheville in 2014 and sharing a wonderful trip to the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone National Park. This was to be the model for next November's holiday in Australia.

There were many benefits in having the Woods as friends. They

introduced us to Cajun food, huge barbeque steaks and other joys of the southern American lifestyle.

They are the recollections of some wonderful experiences.

On a closer note, Hooker was someone with whom anyone would always feel comfortable and relaxed. No airs or graces, just a regular fellow to shoot the breeze, go exploring with or share a glass of wine. His fondness of Australian reds was well founded. Hooker was a real gentleman whose generosity of spirit and positive outlook has left an indelible mark on us. He will be sadly missed by his family and all that knew him.

Peter and Glenda Coote

Perth Australia

5th June 2018

Ann Wood - June 10, 2018 at 05:13 PM

RH

“ *Hooker's enthusiasm for everything always shone through and made those around him joyful too.*

Dick and Sylvie Horvath

Richard Horvath - June 03, 2018 at 09:41 AM

KB

“ *I first met Hooker several years ago playing softball in Asheville. Over the years I came to enjoy not only playing softball with him, but also going to Mo's BBQ for lunch with him and other players on a regular basis. I was fortunate to have lunch with him the week he passed away. He will be missed by all of us that had the chance to play softball with him. I will feel a personal loss every time I play or have BBQ afterward and he isn't there. He was a special person that I will miss.*

Ken Brame

Ken Brame - May 29, 2018 at 12:44 AM

JE

“ Ann - We are so saddened and shocked to hear about Hooker. We just got back to Asheville last week and I was thinking of you. We will keep you in our thoughts. Don & Joy

Joy Erbes - May 27, 2018 at 06:50 PM

DE

“ It is with immense shock that we heard of Hooker's passing. We are truly saddened by this news . We met Hooker over 30 years ago when he was MI's representative for our Area - Trinidad and have valued our relationship since then.

Though with his retirement and move from Houston meant a natural drifting apart he was always considered a true friend.

He will be sorely missed.

Please accept our condolences.

*Danne Costelloe & The Fluid Technology Limited Staff
Trinidad and Tobago*

Denise - May 23, 2018 at 01:15 PM

MP

“ I as so shocked and saddened to learn of this. I worked with Hooker at M-I for many years. What a wonderful person he was. My condolences to Ann and the family. My thoughts are with you, and my memories of Hooker will always be with me

Hugs

Marie Pye

Marie Pye - May 23, 2018 at 11:57 AM

AW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ann Wood - May 23, 2018 at 01:25 AM

AW

“ Dear Pops,

The first time I met you, we were in a dark room. I was lying in a little bed all by myself hooked up to way too many wires and listening to a continuous assortment of beeps and alarms. And then I heard your voice. You said, "Oh sweet pea! You are just so sweet!" And I watched you as you came over and put your hand on my head. It was wonderful. Then you sang to me. You said, "Ayla, you've got me on my knees, Ayla." And you laughed the most amazing laugh and I realized this world might not be so bad after all. It was a few more weeks until I got to lay in your arms for the first time, all warm and cozy. It was a scary, hard time for everyone, but your kind eyes, strong arms, gentle hands, and loving laugh helped brighten each moment.

Since then, I have cherished every single second that we spent together. We got to see bears, play at the park, and take walks. We visited an aquarium, celebrated holidays with family, listened to music, and cuddled on the couch. On my first birthday, you held me and laughed when I got all upset about a little cake on my hands. You'd be happy to know that I'm starting to like sweets more now and my love of ice cream and whipped cream may one day live up to yours.

The last time I saw you, you and GrAnn came to help Mommy and Daddy around the house. I got so excited when I saw you, GrAnn, and Chance walk in the door that I shouted out to you. It was a fun and action-packed visit. I so much enjoyed helping you with your woodwork outside, bringing you tools even when you didn't need them, and making you stop every once in awhile to look at a cool little stick I found. The icing on the cake was when I got to bring you to music class with me. Oh the joy in your eyes and laughter in your voice as we danced around the room with colorful scarves and sang songs about fire trucks, farm animals, and monkeys jumping on the bed! It was wonderful.

Mommy and Daddy have told me that they will keep reminding me how much you love me and how lucky I am to have been able to know you, to love you, and to be loved by you. They told me that they are going to help me remember and remind any future brothers, sisters, cousins, children, and grandchildren what a wonderful being you are. Together, we will tell them stories about your passion for music, blackjack, woodworking, travel, and learning. We will tell them about how generous you have always been with your time, skills, and knowledge. Most of all, we will tell them about your endless love for your family and friends. How fortunate we all are to be able to call you a friend, a colleague, a neighbor, an uncle, a cousin, a brother, a son, a husband, a father, and last but certainly not least, a Pops.

I love you now and always.

*Your sweet pea,
Ayla*

Ann Wood - May 23, 2018 at 01:15 AM

OK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Omaira Keller - May 22, 2018 at 11:35 AM

OK

“ Dear Ann and Family,
Hooker Wood ... What a gift it is, in One's life journey, to encounter a human being and a professional comrade of such an extraordinary essence. I only wish that we had had more time to continue celebrating life on earth for much longer. Until our paths cross again, I will treasure the remembrances we shared in brotherhood.

Ann, Thank You for being his Best Friend and his joy and pillar to lean on, and thank you more for embracing those of us in his circle of friends. Our companionship is with you and the boys through our prayers, and the many remembrances of Hooker that we hold so dearly in our minds and hearts with which we so tenderly hug you.
Omi Keller

Omaira Keller - May 22, 2018 at 11:34 AM


Dawnie
Crites

“ Oh Ann I am so very sorry for your loss. I was shocked to see donation come in to the Boykin Spaniel Society for Hooker. Big hugs.

Dawn Crites

Dawnie Crites - May 15, 2018 at 11:19 AM

MK

Hooker has many friends and colleagues from M-I. The news of Hooker's passing is just getting to his old friends from M-I. He will be missed. I was lucky to have Tim into Hooker in Asheville while visiting my daughter. He was as great man. My condolences to the family.

Michael King - May 21, 2018 at 02:43 PM

PN

What a great guy and good "mud brother". RIP my friend.

Pete Neenan - May 22, 2018 at 04:10 PM

MM

“ *We are devastated at this sudden loss of such a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather. We hold all of you in our hearts and are so proud and honored to be among those who know the Wood family.*



Michael and Claudia McAnelly

Mike McAnelly - May 09, 2018 at 08:21 AM