



Mr. Richard A. "Dick" Wood Jr.

August 18, 1937 - May 30, 2011

Richard A. Wood, Jr., 73, former city mayor and civic leader died Monday, May 30, 2011 at Givens Estates Health Care Center following a lengthy illness. Born in Knoxville, TN in 1937, he was son of the late Richard A. Wood, Sr. and Dorothy Ethel Jones. He was a lifelong member of Central United Methodist Church.

Mr. Wood moved to Asheville from Knoxville, Tenn. in 1943. He was a 1955 graduate of Lee Edwards High School, received a BA in History from Duke University in 1959, where he was an Angier B. Duke Scholar, and LI.B from Duke University School of Law in 1962, where he served as Editor-In-Chief of Law Review.

He practiced law from 1962-1965 in Charlotte, NC before returning to Asheville and joining the law firm of Parker, McGuire & Bailey. He served as Mayor of Asheville from 1971-1975. He served on the Board of Trustees and was a former chairman of Asheville-Buncombe Technical College, Western Carolina University, Asheville Water Authority and Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce, where he also was past president and Legal Counsel. He served as President, chairperson and board member of Givens Estates, Inc., was past chairman and board member of First Union National Bank of NC (Asheville) and later Wachovia Bank, board member for AB Technical College Foundation and Duke University Estate Planning Council.

In 1972 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by Asheville Jaycees as Outstanding Young Man in Buncombe County and "Big A" award from Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce for efforts as Chairman of the Mayor's Civic Center Committee formed to support passage of \$3 million dollar supplemental bond issue for completion of the Asheville Civic Center. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce for service as Mayor in 1975. The new Givens Estates Assisted Living Facility was named for Wood in 1999.

Prior to retiring he was the Managing Partner with the firm McGuire, Wood & Bissette, P.A., Attorneys in Asheville.

His survivors include his daughters, Barbara W. DeBerry and her husband, David Tadley of Durham, NC and Allison W. Greiner and her husband, Robert D. of Greensboro, NC; sister, Diane W. Trainor of Asheville; five grandchildren, Eleanor Virginia DeBerry and Kathryn Olivia DeBerry both of Durham and Owen Wood Greiner, Matthew Davis Greiner and Mackenzie Crawford Greiner all of Greensboro, NC; two nieces, Elizabeth Hill Hernandez of Houston, TX and Catherine Hill Brockwell of Asheville and his loving friend and companion of many years, Harriette Winner.

Private interment will be held at Lewis Memorial Park. A memorial service will be held 11:00 AM, Saturday, June 4, 2011 at Central United Methodist Church, 27 Church Street, Asheville with Dr. Robert Blackburn, Jr. and Mr. Kenneth Partin officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Givens Estates United Methodist Retirement Community, 100 Wesley Dr., Asheville, NC 28803, Central United Methodist Church, 27 Church Street, Asheville, NC 28801 or Community Foundation of WNC, PO Box 1888, Asheville, NC 28802.

Morris Funeral Home, 304 Merrimon Avenue is in charge of arrangements.
Condolences may be sent through the website www.morrisfamilyfuneralho

Cemetery Details

Lewis Memorial Park

415 Beaverdam Road
Asheville, NC 28804

Previous Events

Service

JUN 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

Central United Methodist Church
27 Church Street
Asheville, NC 28801

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Richard A. "Dick" Wood Jr.*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Mr. Wood and my Dad were good friends for many years. May this Family find comfort and Peace in the days to come.*

Dottie Burge, Daughter of Scott Burge

Dottie - August 04, 2011 at 07:24 AM



“ *My husband, Tom, and I knew Dick at Duke Law School where he and Tom were in the class of '62. We shared three wonderful and productive years together. We have kept up this friendship for many years through reunions. We are so saddened to hear of his death and send our love and sympathy to Harriette. Harriet Nesbitt*

Harriet Nesbitt - June 24, 2011 at 12:56 PM



“ *My family moved to Asheville, from Norris, TN, a few years after the Woods. Dick was lawyer for my mother and father (Arline and Bob Campbell); friend to us all. My life is richer for having known him and the family. Susan Campbell Jelinek*

Susan Kate Campbell Jelinek - June 14, 2011 at 09:04 AM

DI

“ Dick became our attorney when we moved to Asheville in 1971. We valued his advice and counsel very highly over the many years until his retirement and had great respect for his integrity, thoughtfulness and intelligent, practical analysis. We were very sorry to hear of his death and wish we could have attended his memorial service. Our deep condolences go to his family.
Rob and Chris Israel

Dr. and Mrs. J. Robert Israel - June 07, 2011 at 10:06 AM

WW

“ Thoughts and prayers are with Dick's family at this time. *William P. Waters, Class of 55*

William P. Waters - June 04, 2011 at 05:49 PM

DR

“ We haven't seen Dick in quite a few years. He has suffered with poor health for a good while which has not been easy for him or his caretakers. Dick was always a neat guy in high school and later, as a lawyer, he helped us for a minor, but important thing. One could always expect that from Dick. His integrity followed him his whole life, and for that, he will be remembered. This world has been made a better place for his contributions and his pleasant way with people. Our respects go to Harriette and to his family for this sad loss.

*Tally and Diane Crenshaw Roberts
Lake Wylie, SC*

Diane Crenshaw Roberts - June 04, 2011 at 11:28 AM

RK

“ Dick Wood was corporate counsel to my company and was my personal attorney for forty years, but he was far more than a business associate. He was a true and close friend. When we both retired, I was able to continue benefitting from Dick's wise counsel. I will miss him a lot, and I suspect there are many out there who feel the same way.

Rolf Kaufman, Wayhnesville, NC

Rolf Kaufman - June 04, 2011 at 11:08 AM

TG

“ I am certain I speak for all of the attorneys and staff of McGuire, Wood & Bissette, PA in saying that we were all very saddened by the news of Dick's passing away. Over the years Dick was a friend, leader and mentor to all of us at the Firm. Dick loved the Firm and he sacrificed greatly for it over the years. I have personally missed his regular presence and guidance over the past few years, as before he retired he was always available to help me personally with his great wisdom and guidance, whether it regarded the practice of law, or management of the Firm. I am privileged to have had the opportunity to come to this Firm over 20 years ago, and to have been personally mentored by Dick. We will all miss him greatly.

Tom Grella Thomas C. Grella

Tom Grella - June 04, 2011 at 08:45 AM

LI

“ Few people have had a greater impact on our family than Dick. He was one of the most special people you could ever know. We miss him greatly and our love goes to Harriette, Barbara, Allison and the rest of the Wood family.

Louis Bissette III

Louis Bissette III - June 03, 2011 at 12:00 PM

EB

“ What an accomplished life Dick has had! I like many other graduates of Lee Edwards who moved away have not seen him in many years. I' sure he remained the dear person we all knew in high school - intelligent, involved, considerate with many leadership traits. Dick will always remain in my memory of our happy, yes sometimes challenging times, of those teen years. My deepest sympathy to Harriette and his family.

Eleanor (Nell Cherry) Beasley

Eleanor Cherry Beasley - June 03, 2011 at 06:29 AM

DS

“ Like Marita, I go back to 8th grade. Dick and I were cheerleaders together at LEHS (with another mayor, Ken Michalove,) and classmates at Duke. He was always so friendly and supportive. What a wonderful, meaningful life he led. Sympathies.....and happy memories...to the family.

Deborah Berney Salomon

Deborah Salomon - June 02, 2011 at 07:46 PM

KB

“ *Mr. Wood was a top quality employer, possessing both a generous heart and kind spirit. He will be greatly missed. My sincere sympathies to his lovely daughters. ~ K. Brendell*

Kitty Brendell - June 02, 2011 at 07:35 PM

DH

“ *My condolences to Dick's family and close friends. He was a special man. Words that come to mind include integrity, honor, service, forthright.*
It was my privilege to work with him during the expansion project at Givens Estates several years ago. His vision and efforts never flagged regardless of obstacles.
He will be missed.

Dave Hinson

Dave Hinson - June 02, 2011 at 01:16 PM

MG

“ *Though I have not seen Dick in years, he always held a special place in my heart.....since 8th grade! Dick was an honorable, intelligent person I felt privileged to know. My best regards and sympathy to those he loved and who loved him.*
Marita Cannon ("Mac") Gates

Marita Cannon Gates - June 02, 2011 at 11:51 AM

JL

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you as you celebrate Dick's life. Dick was an accomplished gentleman, smart, hard working and always friendly. I am proud to have known him.*

Don Lane

John Donald Lane - June 02, 2011 at 09:20 AM

KM

“ Please accept my condolences at the loss of Dick. May peace be with you as you remember and celebrate his life. My thoughts will be with you.

Ken McKenzie

Kenneth E. McKenzie - June 02, 2011 at 08:19 AM

WG

“ *Harriette and The Family,*
I had known Dick since moving here in 1970. He was a neighbor and friend. While I had not been in touch except occasionally since retiring in early 1999, we had had many periods of high community involvement. His leadership and style were always exceptional. The term "a life well-lived" seems to apply more appropriately than I have ever recalled. While he will be missed, he has left his mark in exemplary fashion.

We are leaving Saturday morning for our seasonal home. Please accept our heartfelt condolences.

Walt and Augusta Gladding

Walter Gladding - June 02, 2011 at 06:43 AM

CB

“ *I remember Dick from Newton Elementary School through Lee H. Edwards High School. We both grew up in Kenilworth. He was always a kind person and very smart. His achievements are certainly notable. My sincere sympathy to his family and Harriett. May you always hold good memories of him in your hearts. Carolyn D. Blackman*

Carolyn D. Blackman - June 01, 2011 at 09:57 PM