



Everett Spencer "Bud" Woods

May 3, 1943 - August 27, 2019

Everett Spencer "Bud" Woods

May 3, 1943 - August 27, 2019

Everett Spencer "Bud" Woods, of Saginaw Twp., passed away peacefully on Tuesday, August 27, at Ascension St. Mary's hospital, aged 76 years, after ending treatments for a series of lung ailments. The son of the late Everett LaVern and Irene Elizabeth (Spencer) Woods, Bud was born in Saginaw on May 3, 1943. He married Patricia Ann Fijak on May 28, 1970, and she survives him.

He is also survived by his two sons and their families: Scot S. Woods of Grass Lake, wife Teresa Gonzalez-Woods, and their sons Liam and Nolan; and Steven S. Woods of Gaylord, wife Brenda Cooke Woods, and their sons Wyatt and Amos. Also surviving are sister, Alice (Woods) Schiesswohl and several nieces and nephews. Bud was preceded in death by sister Barbara.

Bud attended Saginaw and Bridgeport-Spaulling schools, graduating from Saginaw High School. There, he was a talented debater with partners John Dashner and Stuart Bremer, and participated in a student exchange in West Germany in 1960. He received a B.A. from the University of Michigan in 1965, and was a committed Wolverine.

He taught government, civics and history at Bridgeport High School for more than a quarter of a century. In 1974, the year he became a father, he was runner-up in the Democratic primary for the 86th State House district serving the Bridgeport-Spaulling area. He served as President and negotiator for the Bridgeport Education Association teacher's union. He survived a triple-bypass heart surgery in the mid 1980s. After taking retirement in 1992, he served briefly as an instructor at Saginaw Valley State University.

Bud was well-known in the Saginaw community as a dedicated, humorous and creative teacher who shared his enthusiasm for the U.S. Constitution with thousands of Bridgeport High School students. They honored him by voting him “favorite teacher” several times. In his Political Science courses, his memorable “World Game” simulation forced students to make diplomatic and economic decisions in order to help their fictional countries grow and succeed. As a teaching device, he often played devil’s advocate to force students to defend their arguments. He also challenged students to think critically about their sources of information, their civic values and priorities, and the reasoning behind their most ardent beliefs. Over his entire life, he was a passionate defender of the role of public education in a civil society.

Bud was an enthusiastic supporter of his family in all of their endeavors. He encouraged his boys to pursue their own interests without parental pressure, and to become honest, free thinking, independent and self-sufficient. He served as soccer coach, and kept statistics for his sons' Little League teams. He spent many summers with his family at Black Lake, where they owned a beloved, humble cabin. He was an avid, if unsophisticated fisherman, who instilled his sons with a deep love of nature by dragging night crawlers behind the boat for a thousand miles with marginal success.

In retirement, Bud and Pat became an even more loving couple as they pursued new adventures together. They traveled Europe with friends, took up bird watching and went for walks together daily. They immersed themselves in family dinner parties, nature hikes, camping trips and loved watching their grandsons’ sporting events and activities. They were snowbirds with a modest winter home in The Villages, Florida, where they golfed frequently. Bud and Pat deeply loved the circles of friends they developed over the decades. Their various “clubs” have served as a rich source of joy and conversation for many years: Coffee Club at the Red Eye, Guinness Club at J B Meinberg, and their Supper Club, hosted by a rotation of members.

Bud had a powerful intellect and a witty and irreverent sense of humor until his final day. He loved to challenge people and to be challenged, and spent many evenings solving fiendishly difficult crossword puzzles on his front porch.

He has elected cremation, and will be interred in a private ceremony at St. Andrew Cemetery in Saginaw Township.

A public Memorial Celebration is planned for Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 at the Andersen Enrichment Center in Saginaw at 5:00 p.m. The atmosphere will be casual, with speakers beginning at 6 p.m. All who knew him are welcome, and we encourage you to bring your photos and memories to share with others.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, the family asks that friends and family honor Bud's enduring commitment to civic engagement by making a tax-exempt contribution in his name to Huron Pines, a Gaylord-based conservation organization dedicated to preserving the northern Michigan woods and waters that Bud loved. Secure donations can be made at <https://huronpines.org/donate/>.

Comments



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Everett Spencer "Bud" Woods.



chad byron - September 13, 2019 at 02:04 PM



“ Scot and Steve and all the family, here is a picture that sums up Bud Woods. He was the the organizer and the man who could keep track of everything. Also showing how much he would give to things he loved. Especially his kids.



chad byron - September 13, 2019 at 01:55 PM



“ Bud was an effective teacher because he cared about his students and democratic ideals. His goal was to make his students shine with a simulation game

Mike Enright

Mike Enright - September 10, 2019 at 10:22 PM



“ Dear Steve,
I was sorry to learn this morning of the death of your father. I'm sure that in time, memories of him and his life will comfort you.
Judy Kalmenek (Huron Pines Board)

Judy Kalmanek - September 10, 2019 at 10:04 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Family pictures



Scot Woods - September 09, 2019 at 12:56 AM



“ Pat and family: Sending prayers for you and your family. I know you were really my parents friends from Bridgeport Schools, but I remember when you and Bud went camping with us a couple times in the mid-60s when I was 6 or 7, before you were married. I'm sure I had a little-girlish crush on him & thought, oh, Pat is the luckiest girl in the world :) But I really grew to love & appreciate Bud ON FACEBOOK many decades later. All that's being said about him upon his passing rings so true: the intellect, his incredibly entertaining wit, his faith in The Constitution and belief that education is everyone's birthright... his disdain for "the pompadour," as he liked to call the current president. It was so clear from his posts how much he loved you, his family and grand-kids. God bless all of you at this time. XO, Bridget Laundra (and my mom sends her love too)

Bridget Laundra - September 08, 2019 at 09:08 PM



“ The world is a better place because Bud Woods was here.
WGS

William Schmitt - September 17, 2019 at 10:22 AM



“ I will miss speaking with Bud. His incites and views on life were well thought out and often amusing. I miss the times we shared a pint at JB's.

Lisa Stafford - September 07, 2019 at 03:43 PM



“ Judy Lynch lit a candle in memory of Everett Spencer "Bud" Woods



Judy Lynch - September 07, 2019 at 09:59 AM



“ I absolutely adored Bud Woods as a teacher at BHS. I had him for US history and political science. He brought life to history and his 'world game's was interesting, to say the least. I remember his story about being a member of 'AFITCIGGE ' during his college days. RIP Bud, heaven gained a new educator and a great man

Beth Mangutz Reinig - September 06, 2019 at 10:25 PM