



Marshall Wheeler Woodson Jr.

March 19, 1927 - May 27, 2017

Marshall Wheeler Woodson

ENTERED THIS LIFE - March 19, 1927

ENTERED ETERNAL LIFE - May 27, 2017

Marshall was born in Berkeley, California, March 19, 1927 and, being the second child and eldest son of Marshall and Dossie Woodson, was named after his father. He lived in San Francisco for most of his childhood, and like his siblings Virginia and Charles, attended public school there. Although he would choose to spend most of his life on a farm, he was always glad for his boyhood experience in the Bay Area, including riding the street cars, cable cars, and ferry boats, watching ships come into the Bay, and walking across the Golden Gate Bridge on its opening day, May 27, 1937.

In 1942, the family moved to Corning where his distant cousin, Warren N. Woodson, was helping to develop this 'Olive City'. Marshall graduated from Corning Union High School in 1944. In 1945, Marshall was drafted into the Army and served as a tank commander in Puerto Rico.

In 1947, he returned home to the family farm in the Squaw Hill area where, in addition to spending the next several decades as an olive grower, he developed several interests. Through training with General Motors and his own study and experience, he became an electrical and brakes specialist. He ran an Automotive Electric service on the farm, working on vehicles sent to him from far and near, including by locals such as Dr. Townley. He also worked as an aircraft mechanic for L. H. 'Mac' McCurley at the Corning airport during his fire fighting years. And like his father, he invested in real estate. Among his other interests were reading – especially in various engineering and agricultural fields, vegetable gardening, curing his homegrown olives, and sharing the fruits of these labors with others.

In 1971, he met Katherine (Kathy) Gemmell, an elementary teacher in Camarillo, California, and they were married in a church there on November 13, 1971. They made their home together on New Jersey Avenue in the house he had helped his Uncle Fisher Clay build in 1950, and there raised their five children: Mark, Julie, David, Peter, and Amy. He was proud of each of them and their accomplishments as they grew older, and later, of his three daughter-in-laws and seven grandchildren.

A long time resident of Corning, he enjoyed associating with its people, especially his church family at First Baptist Church. He joined the church in 1955 and for the rest of his life appreciated the teaching and fellowship there, not least talking 'shop' with fellow aviation and trucking enthusiasts.

Marshall is survived by Kathy, his wife of 45 years, sons Mark (Amy) Woodson of Chico, CA, David (Holly) Woodson of Shakopee, MN, Peter (Sarah) Woodson of Orange, CA, daughters Julie Woodson of Corning, CA, Amy Woodson of Boise, ID, and seven grandchildren.

Events

JUN Memorial Service 11:00AM - 12:00PM

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First Baptist Church

506 Colusa Street, Corning, CA, US

Comments



“ A beautiful obituary of your husband, father and grandfather. My late condolences as I just found Marshall's obituary this evening. He and I met online over 8 years ago when I posted a question about San Francisco and he was the first to respond so enthusiastically . We corresponded throughout the years on and off, the most recent being in March as he told me he had been hospitalized briefly. I so enjoyed receiving his emails as he spoke of his family, garden and church. It was by coincidence he mentioned being stationed at Ft. Riley, Kansas. My husband too was stationed there. I will miss his emails and friendly chit chat.

Regards,
Leisa Bailey
Vermillion, SD



Leisa Bailey - August 31, 2017 at 11:52 PM