



Mr. Walter Riley Wright

August 29, 1931 - October 6, 2020

Proverbs 13:22a “A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children,”

Surrounded by family on October 6, 2020, Walter Riley Wright (aka: Walt, Dad, Pops) moved one last time from his temporary home on earth to his eternal home prepared by Jesus. He is survived by his wife Tena (Ernestine Lamb Wright) his brother James R. Wright, his two sons and their wives: Steven and Robin Wright and Monte and Mary Wright, and a granddaughter, Anji Wright (Pops’ delight and sometimes golfing buddy.)

Born in 1931, Walt came from humble beginnings. He was born the son of a rock mason and a seamstress near Hendersonville, NC. With hard work he was able to gain entrance to tuition free Berea College in Kentucky. There he earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry, fell in love with his wife of 66 years, played collegiate baseball (and is rumored to have made a little spending money, on the sly, by playing minor league baseball.) While his sons never matched his baseball prowess, they did join Walt on church softball leagues as he often recited the mantra: “3 Wrights make a run.”

After college Walt served as an officer in the U. S. Navy as an underwater demolition specialist/instructor hard hat deep-sea diver (yes, the kind with the big locking bell helmet and heavy weighted boots.) Incredibly, he did not then, nor ever did learn to swim on top of the water. Upon leaving the Navy, Walt worked as a chemist for Dupont in Delaware, the petroleum industry in Odessa, Texas (where he became a member of the Masonic Lodge) and for the development of solid rocket fuel propellant in Black Mountain, North Carolina. Unassumingly brilliant, Walt returned to school and earned his Ph.D. in biochemistry from N.C. State University. As a clinical chemist he worked for various pharmaceutical companies, hospitals and medical laboratories. Later, in retirement, Walt would serve his community as a volunteer firefighter. No doubt his time as a deep-sea diver, underwater with all his heavy equipment, made him more comfortable with heavy gear and oxygen tanks while fighting fires.

During his time in the Navy and early work as a chemist, Walt and Tena had their two

sons. They shared the adventure of parenting while moving countless times about the country as Walt's career advanced. They moved so often that Steve once had to ask a police officer how to get home, and Monte, coming home from college with a load of laundry, found the washer and dryer packed in a moving van and the home sold!

Despite the gypsy lifestyle, Walt (and Tena) provided a stable and secure home. He instilled in his sons a strong work ethic, and a love of life, sports, and adventure. He brought us a sense of humor and playfulness. (Just peek into his gaudy wardrobe of Christmas attire.) He nurtured love for each other regardless of our imperfections, and a rock-solid faith foundation. Walt's own story of faith began in his family church as a youth where he won a bible contest that awarded him a trip for training with the young evangelist from Black Mountain, NC - Billy Graham. This would lead to an opportunity to work on a Billy Graham crusade. (Interestingly, later as an adult, he and his family moved to Black Mountain and lived on the same road as the Reverend Graham.) Just as he was encouraged to share his faith as a youth, Walt continued to share his faith with his family, co-workers, golf buddies, and with all he came to know.

A good man, following the instruction of Proverbs 13, Walt's inheritance to us was to learn, learn a lot; work, work hard; love, love graciously; live, live adventurously; laugh, laugh often at yourself; and hope, hope assuredly knowing the source of all hope has called you to heaven and paid the price for your admission. You just need to accept it. This was the greatest inheritance Walt/Dad/Pops left to us.

Share it! See you later Pops ...!

(Due to Covid-19 concerns, a memorial service celebrating his life will be scheduled at a later date. If you would like information on the future memorial, please contact Monte Wright at: mwrighta1pt@yahoo.com. In lieu of flowers, the family asks you to consider making a memorial donation to the American Cancer Society, Divine Hospice of Anderson, S.C., or College Street Baptist Church in Walhalla, S.C.)

A memorial service has been set for Sunday, November 8, 2020, at 2:00 PM, at College Street Baptist Church.

Comments



“ Sherry Moore ~ James M. Brown Elementary



Sherry Moore - October 12, 2020 at 12:29 PM



“ Kathy Addis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Walter Riley Wright



Kathy addis - October 12, 2020 at 09:52 AM



“ Precious Wright family, We send our love to all of you, knowing you all grieve yet rejoice. Not only because of the amazing person Walt was, but because of the goodness of God and the hope we have in him. Thank you for your beautiful tribute in the obituary, we realize we so often know little about people, especially when they are simply humble servants who love unconditionally. God bless you all, we love you!
Paul and Mary Tichenor

Paul Tichenor - October 10, 2020 at 04:16 PM



“ Thank you Paul and Mary. You are so precious to us. We look forward to the day we join both our Dad's in heaven and see what they now know and hear their new stories! Love you. Monte

monte wright - October 16, 2020 at 03:11 PM



“ I had the pleasure of playing many rounds of golf with Walt. he was a good golfer and fun to play with. He was the ultimate gentleman and he will be missed. Our prayers are with the family during this sad time. Rest in peace Mr. Walt!!

Jim McCoy - October 10, 2020 at 10:55 AM



“ Clarence and I were deeply saddened by the news of Walt's death. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time. May God bless and comfort you today and in the days to come.

Carolyn L. Blankenship - October 08, 2020 at 08:13 PM



“ Mary, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Praying for peace and comfort.



Judy Fricks - October 08, 2020 at 06:48 PM



“ It was an honor to be allowed to care for Mr Wright. Thank you too the entire family for making me feel welcome at every visit. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.



Candice Swafford - October 08, 2020 at 02:01 PM



“ Thank you so much for caring for him so deeply. I don't know what we would have done without you!!

Mary - October 09, 2020 at 11:47 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you. May God comfort you as only He can do.

Gladys Moody



Gladys Moody - October 08, 2020 at 01:20 PM



“ Thank you Ms. Gladys. We continue to pray for you!

Mary - October 09, 2020 at 11:48 AM



“ I did not know Mr. Wright, but what an amazing story of faith and service to our Lord! Now I know how and why Monte is such an amazing servant of God. There's no doubt about where and how this wonderful man is celebrating -- directly at the feet of God and maybe standing beside Billy Graham.



Rosemary Bailes - October 08, 2020 at 10:23 AM



“ Thank you so much! He was an amazing man. We were all blessed to have him in our lives. God bless you!!

Mary - October 09, 2020 at 11:49 AM



“ Much love and sincere condolences to each of you in the loss of or your precious father and grandfather. I thought very highly of Walt and appreciated his guidance during my years at College Street. He was genuine and a true light. He will be greatly missed and I appreciate the privilege of having known him.

Rita Harper

Rita Harper - October 08, 2020 at 09:27 AM



“ Thank you! We miss y'all so much! Now I don't have anyone to look at for style ideas! God bless y'all!!

Mary - October 09, 2020 at 11:50 AM



“ Monty, Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your Family.



Steve & Debbie Morehead - October 07, 2020 at 08:34 PM



“ Lynn Wilbanks lit a candle in memory of Mr. Walter Riley Wright



Lynn wilbanks - October 07, 2020 at 08:33 PM



“ I so much enjoyed playing golf with Walt, and loved to hear his Baseball stories. But most of all, I loved seeing his faith in action in all he did. Walt, thanks for your love and great friendship!

Ray Conway - October 07, 2020 at 06:56 PM



“ He sure loved playing golf! Thank you for all the prayers during this trying time. Love y'all.

Mary - October 09, 2020 at 11:51 AM



“ I met Walt Wright the Christmas of my Freshman year at Clemson. Steve had invited me to spend some of the holidays with his family in New Jersey. When my parents heard NEW JERSEY they immediately said no way. Walt called my Dad, explained they were really from NC and Kentucky and my folks relented. Walt has been a favorite since then!

stone workman - October 07, 2020 at 05:29 PM



“ Haha. I've never heard this story before. He sure enjoyed your jams and jellies. God bless you!

Mary - October 09, 2020 at 11:52 AM



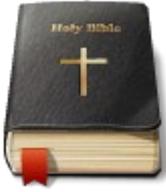
“ Darla Allgood lit a candle in memory of Mr. Walter Riley Wright



Darla Allgood - October 07, 2020 at 02:34 PM



“ Wayne F Barton sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Walter Riley Wright



Wayne F Barton - October 07, 2020 at 02:02 PM