



Gerald Manley Woods

August 26, 1946 - February 1, 2018

Gerald Manley Woods, age 71, of Bloomington, died February 1, 2018. He was a kind and gentle husband, father, and grandfather who loved life and lived for his family. "Grandpa was our world," writes his granddaughter, Riley Vaughn. "He gave happiness to the world."

Jerry was born August 26, 1946, in Virginia, Minnesota, where he loved to bake pies with his mom, fillet walleyes with his dad, and play outside with his siblings and cousins. He was known to friends as "Chipper" at Roosevelt High School, where his 1964 senior yearbook quote read, "Silence is golden, and Jerry is worth a million."

Jerry joined the army and served from 1966 to 1969 in the Vietnam War. He led the Pershing Rifles team in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and ran supplies in Vietnam, returning home a decorated veteran. Jerry completed his Bachelor of Arts in industrial education at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, in 1973, while working on the Duluth Winnipeg Pacific Railroad.

Jerry met Cindy Blanchette on a blind date in Duluth, and it was love at first sight. "When I met you, I knew that was it," he later told her. They sat in Jerry's car and talked until 5 in the morning. They were married on February 8, 1975, in a big Iron Range wedding, and moved to the woods in Britt, where Jerry later built a house for his wife and daughters, Jenny and Melinda. Jerry

logged and cut the lumber himself, while working days as a draftsman. All his girls loved working in the yard with him, hauling wood and running the log splitter. Jerry would come back from the wood pile smelling like chainsaw gas and pine needles, a smell Cindy thinks should be bottled and sold as a cologne.

Jerry cherished this place, with its nearby lakes, snowmobile trails, bright stars, and reunions of extended family. Jerry was the quiet patriarch, with a sweet, crooked smile and a wink for his loved ones. His niece Debra DeBruzzi wrote to Melinda,

"Whenever I hear the saying 'Up North,' I envision all the memories of our family gatherings. Holidays, snowmobiling, stoking the fire before bed, cutting trees, bonfires, fireworks, smoked turkey, wild rice, the farm, frozen cars that won't start unless your dad starts a barbeque under the engine to warm them up. I hope you feel blessed to have such a wonderful papa, 'cause he was definitely One-of-A-Kind!"

Jerry made many memories up north, walking to the cranberry farm to go sledding with his daughters, sons-in-laws, and grandkids, Austin and Riley Vaughn, or pulling the kids on a snowmobile. The family took train rides together, and Jerry set up a train set for Austin on plywood. He passed on his love of music to his daughters, especially 1960s rock. He used to play the oldies station while chopping wood or working in the yard, and made many road trips to concerts and festivals with Cindy, playing the Beach Boys and Simon & Garfunkel.

Jerry and Cindy moved to the Twin Cities in 2010 to be closer to their children and grandchildren, and they traveled. Jerry loved the beach, whether in Mexico or his beloved Florida. He and Cindy were members of a Mustang club that took day trips around Minnesota. At home, Jerry loved watching football and NASCAR. Saturday night was pizza and movie night with the

grandkids. He and Cindy loved taking the kids to movies and Snuffy's for burgers and shakes.

Jerry had a heart of gold and will be deeply missed by his wife, family, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jessie (Marie Westby) and Manley Oliver Woods, and his brothers, Roger Lee Woods and John Oliver Woods. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Cindy Woods; sisters Kathy (Gary) DeBruzzi of New Brighton and Susan White of Vista, California; daughters Jenny (Peter) Scholtes of Minneapolis and Melinda (David) Vaughn of Lakeville; grandchildren Austin and Riley Vaughn of Lakeville; Aunt Jean Stickney of Virginia, Minnesota; and many nieces, nephews, and other extended family members.

Memorials to Disabled American Veterans in lieu of flowers. Private interment Fort Snelling. Funeral Service Friday, February 9 at 1:00 p.m. with visitation one hour prior at Washburn-McReavy Nokomis Park Chapel, 1838 East Minnehaha Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55407, 612-721-1651.

Tribute Wall

PS

“ 15 files added to the album *Jerry Memories*



Peter S Scholtes - February 08, 2018 at 01:29 PM