



Thomas Clay Wood

August 1, 1919 - May 1, 2015

Thomas Clay Wood was born August 1, 1919 in Nokesville, Virginia to Nettie Gertrude (Herring) Wood and Henry Clay Wood. He worked on his family's farm on Vint Hill Road, where he developed his love of farming and passed that love on to future generations. He attended a small, one-room schoolhouse, which he walked to each day and later graduated from Nokesville High, which is the present day Elementary school. At a young age, he remembers driving his mother into Washington DC to sell the family's produce and meat at a farmers' market.

After graduating from Strayer College in Washington DC, he returned to his family farm and in 1941, married Winifred (Winnie) Elizabeth Swank and moved to her family's farm where his beautiful bride was born and raised. It was there he started his farming career with ten cows and would later purchase the farm from his father-in-law.

Over the next seventy years, "Clay" Wood would devote himself to this church, family, community and state. An active member of the Nokesville United Methodist Church, Clay held many leadership positions, including a faithful delegate to the United Methodist Conference even up into his senior years. He was twenty-two years of age when he joined the Nokesville Ruritan Club where he was an active member for 64 years, and the District Governor in 1952. In 2001, Clay received an award for perfect attendance of sixty years.

He was involved in numerous community activities, including Nokesville Day celebrations, and the annual Brunswick stew fundraiser.

In 1952 he became a member of the Prince William School Board, a position he held for twenty-four years. Knowing that Prince William County's population would continue to grow, he saw the need for a new high school in Nokesville, and with determination and hard work, petitioned for the funds which were subsequently approved in 1964 to build the Brentsville District High School on Aden Road in Nokesville. Clay was also instrumental in getting special education introduced into the school system.

Clay was elected to the Prince William Board of Supervisors, a position he held for four years, deciding not to run for a second term in order to spend more time with his family. During all of these years of public service, Clay continued his farming operation and became a well-respected homebuilder in the county. Clay also served nineteen years on the Prince William County Soil and Water Conservation Board. He was appointed by four Virginia Governors to serve on the Commonwealth Council on Aging, and was a personal friend of Governor Godwin and Virginia State Senator Chuck Colgan.

But ensuring a promising future for the county's young people was always his main concern, which is why in his later years, he negotiated to sell to the county his boyhood home farm, which is now the site of the county's newest High School. In appreciation of Clay's dedication and service to the county's educational system, the Board of Supervisors voted to name T. Clay Wood Elementary School in his honor, a dedication service held in 2011.

Clay died on May 1, 2015 at his home farm, in the same house where Clay and Winnie began, and lived out their life together. Clay is survived by three children, Linda Hingorani, Diane Elizabeth Wood and Lanson Clay and wife

Galina Wood. He is also survived by six grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and one great, great grandson.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, VA. Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 12:00 Noon at Nokesville United Methodist Church, 12550 Aden Road, Nokesville, VA. Interment will follow at Valley View Cemetery, Nokesville, VA.

Condolences may be sent to: www.piercefh.com

Cemetery Details

Valley View Cemetery

12614 Valley View Drive
Nokesville, VA 20181

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 6. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Service

MAY 7. 12:00 PM (ET)

Nokesville United Methodist Church
12550 Aden Road
Nokesville, VA 20181

Tribute Wall

SZ

“ When we first came to Prince William, Mr. Wood was our Supervisor and assisted us with a problem. I followed his career as a public servant and was always amazed at how hard he worked to better the life of the people in the county. Several years ago, I had the opportunity to meet him again due to my professional life. I thoroughly enjoyed the time I was able to spend with him, as well as the opportunity to meet his family. I am very sorry to hear of his passing. He was a wonderful man who was dedicated to his family and his community. I feel privileged to have known him. To his family: Please accept my sympathy. I know how hard it is to lose a parent. May God grant each of you His peace and blessings.
Sincerely, Sue S. Zich

Sue S. Zich - May 10, 2015 at 10:52 PM

AL

“ So sorry to hear the loss of Mr. Wood, he was very good friends with my great grandparents James and Bessie Shoemaker. Your family is in our thoughts through this difficult time.



Amanda Lowe - May 07, 2015 at 03:47 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas Clay Wood.



May 06, 2015 at 08:15 PM

DD

“ Donna, Brian, Shawn, Shane, Shyanne Donahue purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Thomas Clay Wood.



Donna, Brian, Shawn, Shane, Shyanne Donahue - May 06, 2015 at 02:01 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Clay Wood.



May 06, 2015 at 10:46 AM

HF

“ HALE FAMILY purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Thomas Clay Wood.



HALE FAMILY - May 06, 2015 at 10:09 AM



“ Our prayers go out to the entire family. God bless. Darrell and Sharon Farr

Sharon Farr - May 05, 2015 at 12:18 PM



“ *Cindy Stevens lit a candle in memory of Thomas Clay Wood*



Cindy Stevens - May 05, 2015 at 09:38 AM



RIP Mr. Wood ..My prayers are with your family.

Cindy Stevens - May 05, 2015 at 09:48 AM

CR

“ *Thank you, Mr. Wood, for believing in me and having faith in me. Your extended helping hand in my time of need, even though I was a complete stranger, was immeasurable. May you now find the rest you deserve and are reunited with your loving wife. Thoughts and prayers sent to your family and friends in this, your final chapter. Sincerely, Christi Ruhstorfer*



Christi Ruhstorfer - May 05, 2015 at 09:37 AM

KH

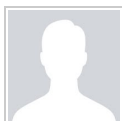
“ T. Clay, or "Chip" as he was known to the Nokesville-Bristow Ruritan Club, joined the Ruritans at the age of 21 shortly after the club chartered in December of 1941. He lead the club for many years and was known as Mr. Ruritan in the Nokesville area. He was for many years the mentor of many new Ruritans. He had told me of the times he worked to form new clubs with Mills Godwin, When Clay was District Governor of Ruritan and Mills was National President in the 1950's. T. Clay will be missed by our community, and Thanks for all you did for our Ruritan Club including the starting of "Nokesville Day". Thanks for sharing Ruritan with me for the past 29 years and all of Nokesville for the past 74 years.
With deepest respect; Ken and Margarete Hinkle

Ken Hinkle - May 05, 2015 at 04:28 AM

DL

“ Mr. Wood was a great and true friend. He will be missed in the community, but certainly not forgotten. His contributions to his community will live on for all generations to come. We pray for peace and comfort for the family during this time of sorrow.

Daniel and Rose Lam - May 04, 2015 at 10:46 AM



So sorry to hear about Mr. Wood I grew up in Nokesville on the same road for many years. I went to school with Lynn and went to his home many times. He was always very kind and soft spoken. My prayers are with his family. Cindy Jones Stevens

Cindy Stevens - May 05, 2015 at 09:45 AM

LL

Mr. Wood will be greatly missed by all who knew him, he will certainly not be forgotten. RIP

Leonard & Linda Lawson

Leonard Lawson - May 05, 2015 at 03:14 PM

GJ

I was sent to Prince William County in 1968 as a District Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resources Conservation Service). Mr. Wood was a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Board which included Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William Counties. During my tenure, Clay was instrumental in the development and creation of the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District. My wife and I moved from Manassas to Nokesville and consequently became very close friends with Clay and his wife, Winnie. I transferred to another location in 1972, but we continued to stay in touch with the Wood family. I knew Clay's health was declining. The last time I called him, he was not able to speak with me. I am extremely saddened by his passing, but I know he is in the presence of his savior, Jesus Christ. My wife and I send condolences to his children and their families.

Russell and Judy Vaughan

G. Russell Vaughan, Jr. - May 05, 2015 at 08:55 PM

JH

To the family of Clay Wood: In the late 1940's and early 1950's my father Joe Kemper, my uncle Marshall Doak, Clay Wood and others sold farm produce at a market in Washington, D.C. I usually went with my folks on those Saturdays and remember the nice comraderie which my folks, Clay Wood, and others had during the heat of summer and cold of winter in that long building. Thinking of you.

Jean Kemper Helwig, Flintstone, GA

Jean Kemper Helwig - May 26, 2015 at 02:39 PM