

G. Robert Wood

January 23, 1942 ~ August 12, 2023

G. Robert Wood passed away surrounded by his loving family on August 12, 2023. He had metastatic lung cancer that had gone undiagnosed. The advanced cancer took him quickly and the loss has left us all stunned and with great sadness.

Born on January 23, 1942, to George Thompson Wood and Betty Smith Wood, he was raised in the Salt Lake Valley along with his younger brother Lane. He graduated from Olympus High School in 1960, where he excelled in music and government studies. He attended the University of Utah studying political science while juggling music classes and participating in the marching band, wind ensemble, and orchestra, graduating in 1965. Eventually, his career would focus on music, but he always maintained a strong interest in public affairs and was actively engaged in national and local politics.

Robert spent 30 years with the Granite School District as a music teacher mentoring countless students and associates. It was in this profession that he made lifelong friends and influenced so many young people. Schools where he taught include West Lake Junior, Bennion Junior, and Olympus Junior High Schools. Whether it was stage band, orchestra, concert band, wind ensemble, summer marching bands, private lessons, or the Granite Junior Youth Symphony Orchestra, Robert worked tirelessly teaching the art and science of music to the students in his classes. He took great pride in his work and his legacy and influence will resonate long beyond his lifetime.

A military man, Robert joined the National Guard when he was 18 and he proudly served for 42 years, representing his country in performances across the United States and overseas. After retiring as the band's First Sergeant, he spent the next 20 years voluntarily performing whenever the band's woodwind section was short a player. Over his 60 years associated with the band, he made many lifelong friends and garnered deep respect for his musicianship, discipline, and dedication to this organization.

He met Anna Rose Laveder, a fellow clarinetist, in his youth, they fell in love and married in 1966. They were a delightful couple who shared their lives with so many friends from the University of Utah, Granite District, and the Army band. Together they raised seven children in a sometimes crazy but loving home in Cottonwood Heights, Utah. Sadly, Anna Rose passed away in 2008, just as they were starting their well-earned retirement. He later married his sweetheart EJ, who has been his companion and loving partner for the last 12 years. Together they enjoyed Ute Football games, traveling, and spending time together.

He is proceeded in death by his parents George and Betty and his first wife, Anna Rose. He is survived by his wife EJ, his brother Lane (Charlotte) Wood, his seven children: Elizabeth (Jim) Finnegan, G. Robert Wood II, Christopher (Christine) Wood, Anne Elise (Keith) Smedberg, Paul (Kelle) Wood, David (Laura) Wood, James

(Kelly) Wood, a niece, and eight grandchildren.

Viewing, funeral, and internment services will be held at Larkin Sunset Gardens, 1950 E. Dimple Dell Road, Sandy. Viewing: Friday, August 18, 2023, from 6-8 pm. Pre-funeral Viewing: August 19, 2023, 10-10:45 am. Funeral: August 19, 2023, at 11 am. Interment to immediately follow.