



## Robert H. "Woodie" Wood Jr.

January 15, 1933 - June 19, 2024

Robert H. (Woodie) Wood Jr. died at home June 19, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. Woodie was born January 15, 1933, in Hollywood, West Virginia to Robert and Ethel (Nichols) Wood. The family moved to Liberty Center, Indiana in 1941. After graduating from Liberty Center High School in 1952, he worked for a short time at Franklin Electric in Bluffton and for Fruehauf Trailer Manufacturing in Fort Wayne, IN. On April 19, 1953, he married his high school sweetheart, Eleanor (Morris), at Liberty Center Baptist Church and was drafted into the US Army on April 25, 1953. He served overseas, including six months in Germany and a year in France where his wife was able to join him and their first child was born. After being discharged in April 1955, Woodie worked for United Rural Electric Membership Corporation (Heartland) for 38 years, the last 22 years as CEO, retiring in January 1998. He was also elected to the board of directors of Federated Exchange in Kansas City, KS, where he served as secretary of the board for ten years. He was a member of the St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Uniondale for over 50 years.

Woodie is survived by his wife, Eleanor, of 71 years, three daughters: Lynnette (Steve) Rohring of Virginia Beach, Virginia; Cheryl (Tim) Hartigan of Bluffton, Indiana; and Carla (Kevin) Miller of Columbus, Ohio; in addition to eight grandchildren: Matthew (Sara) Rohring, Kelly (Dan) Benigno, Kerri (Geoff) Hubble, Kelsey (Zack) Hosford and Yale, Collin, Breckin and Sterling Miller. He is also survived by eight great-grandchildren, a sister, Juanita (Kaye) Ivins of Bluffton, and several nieces and nephews.

Woodie was preceded in death by an infant son, Yale Robert, his parents, Robert Sr. and Ethel Wood, a sister, Judy (Bob) Haver of Rockford, OH and a brother, Willie Lee (Sharon) Wood of Los Angeles, CA.

Woodie thoroughly loved his grandchildren, along with hunting, fishing, camping, his motor home and traveling. Following retirement Woodie and Ellie enjoyed a six-week trip to Alaska in their motor home. He loved the scenery and the salmon fishing and was fortunate enough to visit all fifty states in his lifetime. He and his family members enjoyed two wonderful trips to Europe. He was a constant, positive presence in his family's life as a devoted father and grandfather with a great sense of humor and determination, loving life to the fullest.

Visitation will be held Monday, June 24, from 3pm – 7pm at Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral

Home in Bluffton. A memorial service will begin at 10:30am Tuesday, June 25, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Uniondale, IN, with one hour of calling prior to the service. Burial will follow at Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton with Military Honors by the American Legion Post #111 of Bluffton and United States Army Honor Guard.

In lieu of flowers/mementos, the family has directed gifts be sent to St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can share memories or online condolences to Woodie's family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Elm Grove Cemetery

3500 East State Road 124  
Bluffton, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUN 24.** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
<http://www.thomarich.com>

## Visitation

**JUN 25.** 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
5912 Sugar Street  
Bluffton, IN 46791

## Funeral Service

**JUN 25.** 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
5912 Sugar Street  
Bluffton, IN 46791

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert H. "Woodie" Wood Jr.*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - June 24, 2024 at 07:37 PM

MG

“ *Eleanor and family,*

*I just heard of Bob's passing this morning, as we were on vacation the last week of June and had stopped our paper. Sorry to have missed the visitation.*

*I didn't know Bob very well or for very long but my memory of him was positive.*

*I know your family has been super close, so he will be sorely missed. Trusting you all will feel the presence of His comforting Spirit in the days ahead as you continue to reminisce and celebrate a life well lived.*

*Mark Gerber*

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**Mark Gerber** - July 11, 2024 at 09:37 PM

SR

“ *Much love to you Lynnette, and your whole family. I did not know your Dad well; though what I knew of him still impresses me all these years later! He was 1 of "those Dads". You know, the kind no one was afraid of, and everyone felt comfortable with, and all love to be around him. That is a testament to his character and his life.*

*May the entire family hold dear those memories, and all those adventures. For he is now holding each one of you with your heart, gently honoring your life together. So much love to you all!*

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**Susanne Reisenbichler** - June 26, 2024 at 09:11 PM

CM

“ Eleanor and family; We were truly saddened to hear of Woody's passing. He was a kind gentle man always filled with optimism. We have such fond memories of the REMC trips we took with Bob and Eleanor. He will be greatly missed. Your entire family is in our prayers. May his soul rest in peace. Carl and Sharon Minick

Carl Minick - June 25, 2024 at 08:52 PM

KH

“ Sending you my sympathy and thinking of all of you. Karen Johnson Hunnicutt



Karen Hunnicutt - June 25, 2024 at 05:17 PM

BG

“ Eleanor, you and the girls are in our thoughts and we send our deepest sympathy to all of you. Marion, BJ, and Scott Gray



BJ Gray - June 24, 2024 at 06:55 PM

JP

“ Sincere condolences to your family at the loss of your husband, father and grandfather. Thoughts and prayers.

Jennifer (Garrett) Paxson - June 24, 2024 at 10:25 AM

RC

“ Eleanor, Carla and family: My sincere condolences. I hope your many wonderful memories as a family are a comfort to you in the days and months ahead. You are in my prayers.

Ryan Chasey - June 24, 2024 at 10:10 AM



“ 148 files added to the album Life Tributes



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - June 24, 2024 at 10:07 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert H. "Woodie" Wood Jr..



June 24, 2024 at 09:08 AM



“ Woodie was one of the best CEO's I had the pleasure to work under. Though it was a short 3 years before he retired, I will always cherish the talks we had and that "slap" on the back that nearly took your breath away when he would run into you in the office. Eleanor, you have my sympathy.

Mike Kelsey - June 24, 2024 at 07:26 AM



“ Eleanor, and family  
It is so good to remember the life Robert has lived, and so sad to hear of his passing.  
Bob and Eleanor have lived a life of 'giving', in so many ways to all around them. They have contributed to their community and been leaders in all they touched. They have been our friends and, though not socially close, I have always been proud of our relationship.  
Thank you for your life, Bob, and prayers and sympathy to the family.  
Jeff and Sharon Espich

Jeff Espich - June 23, 2024 at 09:31 PM

JS

“ Eleanor, I send my love and sympathy to you and your family at the passing of your husband. May the Lord be with you and help you through the each day.

Janice Simerman

Janice Simerman - June 22, 2024 at 08:14 PM

SL

“ Sara and Libby purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Robert H. "Woodie" Wood Jr..



Sara and Libby - June 22, 2024 at 02:39 PM

GE

“ I knew Bob through the REMC "family". He was a remarkable gentleman and enjoyed knowing him.

Galen Eberhart - June 22, 2024 at 11:20 AM

LC

“ Love, Wood families in California planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert H. "Woodie" Wood Jr..

Love, Wood families in California - June 21, 2024 at 11:33 PM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Robert H. "Woodie" Wood Jr..



June 21, 2024 at 11:33 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert H. "Woodie" Wood Jr..



June 21, 2024 at 04:22 PM

T[

“ I'll always remember walking into the house and asking Woody why there were so many clocks?!

*What an amazing man who embraced all he knew and loved with warmth and gentleness! I will miss his hugs and stories, but I am forever grateful for his friendship with my grandparents and for treating friends as family...something I'm proud to say future generations are carrying on!*

Tara Cocanower [Ulmer] - June 21, 2024 at 03:22 PM

DG

“ Sorry to hear of Bob's passing. I first met Bob when we were doing concessions for his auction. He sure had a lot of knowledge about the area and history of Wells Co. I worked with Bob several times when he was working for Ellenberger's auctions appraising coins. He was such a neat guy. Bob's family will be in our prayers. Dan Gerdom



Dan Gerdom - June 19, 2024 at 07:42 PM

BC

“ What a Wonderful gentle Soul of a man Robert Wood was! If anyone deserves Heaven it was surely Bob! To the Wood Family God be with u the Wife and 3 Daughters as u all Grieve your loss of your Husband and Father! May our Heavenly Father give u all Grace Peace and Comfort in the Days, Weeks, Months, and Years to come!! 🙏🙏🙏🙏 God Bless the Wood Family! Love, Barry and JoEllen! ❤️



Barry Crosbie - June 19, 2024 at 01:17 PM