



## Howard Kenneth "Woody" Wood Jr.

February 9, 1948 - April 16, 2024

Howard K. Wood Jr., known to all as 'Woody,' passed away April 16, 2024. Woody was 76 and lived with his wife Brenda in The Villages, Florida. He was born on February 9, 1948 to Howard Sr. and Margaret Wood, twelve years younger than his only sister Charlotte. Growing up in rural Elkton, MD, he was known then as 'HK,' in order to differentiate him from his dad. He enhanced his appreciation for the outdoors through activities like hunting, fishing, and gardening as his father taught him. It was from within this simple environment where he gained the capabilities and appreciation for being a do-it-yourselfer.

He first encountered Brenda Garvin in middle school and quickly became the one and only love of her life. Shared experiences in choirs and musical productions allowed them to grow more closely together. They ended up both attending West Chester University in Pennsylvania as music majors and Woody gained his lifelong accompanist, as well as someone to edit (OK, write) his papers for him. She managed to push him all the way through his master's degree.

For over thirty years Woody spent the majority of his career teaching and overseeing the choral and musical theater programs of Unionville High School, where was a beloved educator who went the extra mile for his students. His warmth and passion helped instill a love of music in so many of his students that many went on to pursue careers in the arts. Early in his career, he also participated as a performer in local theatrical musicals within

the tri-state area surrounding southern Chester County PA. He remained active within the community and choral ensembles of Calvary Lutheran Church in West Chester, frequently performing at weddings and funerals. Many summers, Woody, Brenda, and the three kids would present special music at several area churches in that area.

Woody and Brenda made a home for their three children in Kennett Square, PA. All through his career Woody kept projects going in the garage, even building a 2nd story deck off the back of the house one summer. He was the dutiful laborer, bringing Brenda's design visions to bear, whether in the creation of a custom stained mantelpiece for their next home or an herb garden. The family remained in that area all the way into the early part of his retirement from teaching. Shortly after leaving teaching, Woody stayed busy working part-time at Longwood Gardens, capitalizing on his love of gardening. Woody was also a cancer survivor. Upon reflection, in the summer of 2011, with the kids graduated from college and off starting their own families, Woody and Brenda relocated to central Florida. Within the expansive, active community of The Villages, they were able to kindle new friendships, find a deeply sustaining new church community in Hope Lutheran, and reengage with hobbies and passions. Woody came full circle back to performing in Villages' theatrical casts, appearing in such shows as "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" and "Forever Plaid." He also joined several choirs, including The Village Voices, Brothers in Song, and the Villages Pops Chorus. As a fun-loving artist and contributor, he left an indelible mark on scores of fellow actors, singers, instrumentalists, and directors over the decades.

In early 2014, Woody and Brenda took on temporary leadership of the music ministries at Hope after a vacancy. Their willingness to step in kept the ensembles going through September of that year, until the point when their oldest son, Ken, relocated to take on the position permanently. Woody continued to offer guidance, leadership, his strong Tenor, occasional ornery rehearsal disruptions, an ear, and a work ethic toward excellence.

Woody is survived by his wife of over 53 years, Brenda, and their three

children, Ken, Ben, and Phoenix. He also has eight grandchildren: Howie and Zada (Ken & Carrie); Skylar, Eve, Andersen, and Diana (Ben & Kwi Lee); Lois and Wren (Phoenix). He was preceded in death by his parents, Howard Sr. and Margaret, and his sister Charlotte.

A celebration of his life will be held at Hope Lutheran Church, 250 Avenida Los Angelos, The Villages, FL. 32162 (at the corner of Morse Blvd. and 466). It takes place on Monday, May 6 at 10:00 am. Those wishing to send flowers are asked to do so through Beyers Funeral Home in advance of the service. Please call Beyers at (352) 753-4444. Memorial donations can also go toward the music department at Hope (352) 750-2321. A fellowship banquet for all in attendance will occur thereafter.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAY 6. 10:00 AM (ET)

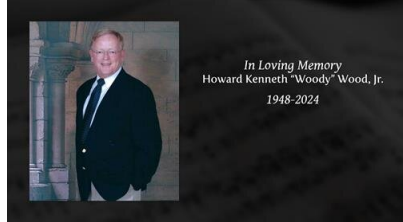
Hope Lutheran Church  
250 Avenida Los Angelos  
The Villages, FL 32162-3607  
(352) 750-2321

*A celebration of Woody's life will be held at Hope Lutheran Church, 250 Avenida Los Angelos, The Villages, FL. 32162 (at the corner of Morse Blvd. and 466). It takes place on Monday, May 6 at 10:00 am. The interment of cremains will take place on premises with immediate family following the service. A fellowship banquet for all in attendance will occur thereafter.*

# Tribute Wall



“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Howard Kenneth "Woody" Wood Jr.* ”



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**Beyers Funeral Home** - May 02, 2024 at 03:58 PM

RL

*I wept tears of joy for Woody ... a life well lived! H.K. & Brenda built a beautiful family; inclusive and welcoming of God's family ... a legacy of touching hearts, ears and funny bones. My parents too benefited upon the Woods arrival, being long term members of Hope Lutheran Church and of its Choir. My testimony begins in 2017 with my parents, George & Mary Leviska, receiving permission for me to rehearse with the Choir for their Christmas Cantata. Weeks of Choir practice bolstered my singing confidence, with the seasoned tenor Woody by my side, accompanied by Brenda his wife on the piano and led by their stern but talented son Kenny Wood, Director of Music. The hard work paid off. The Christmas Cantata was joyous, heartfelt and well received. I returned home to Michigan with Christmas in my heart; the words, songs and melodies invoking the Spirit of Peace and Goodwill towards my fellow man, that lasted well into that New Year. Building upon the confidence gained from Woody, Brenda and Kenny Wood, I joined a Ward Church's Chancel Choir, otherwise out of my league. In answer to an earlier prayer that week for a spiritual soul mate, God led their French Horn player to introduce herself to me a half week later; six years ago. We are five years happily married this July 13, 2024.*

*Russell and Gaye Leviska*

*Dear Heavenly Father, I am grateful for the man Howard Kenneth Wood Jr. who walked with you like David of the old testament, a man after your own heart. Bring comfort to all who grieve at this time of loss. And may your Peace that surpasses all understanding keep our hearts and minds upon you till that time we rise again to sing your eternal praises. In the name of your Son, our Savior, Redeemer, King Jesus. Amen*

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**Russell Leviska** - May 06, 2024 at 08:03 PM

JG

*“ I so loved working with Woody for many years at Unionville. There are so many memories I can't chose just one. I enjoyed his music ability because I, too, was very musical. May your grief be gentle and your memories comforting.*

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**Janet Greene** - May 06, 2024 at 11:32 AM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Howard Kenneth "Woody" Wood Jr..*



May 02, 2024 at 02:38 PM



“ *The Elliotts Scott & Rhonda planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Howard Kenneth "Woody" Wood Jr..*

**The Elliotts Scott & Rhonda** - May 02, 2024 at 02:38 PM



“ *Dear Brenda,  
My deepest sympathy to you and your children on the death of your beloved husband Woody. He was a very good man and a most professional educator. I am happy that I got to know him during my time at UHS. May he be resting in the arms of Our Lord and may the same good Lord give you consolation and peace. Joan Costanzo Fortugno*

**Joan Fortugno** - May 01, 2024 at 05:32 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Howard Kenneth "Woody" Wood Jr..*



April 30, 2024 at 01:57 PM

PR

“Woody and Brenda were great friends all through high school. Both being key figures in all of the musicals - we all had so much fun! Being in the musical, high school choir and Concert Choir are some of my best memories from my youth and Woody and Brenda were a great part of that fun. Woody and I even took voice lessons one summer from our music teacher Mr Black. I haven't maintained contact with them over the years, but they both have always been in my thoughts and memories. Woody was "one great guy". My prayers and love go out to Brenda.

Paul Reynolds - April 29, 2024 at 03:51 PM

JC

Woody was a good friend in high school and Brenda was my next door neighbor all through our school years. Sending my prayers to the family

John Cullen - April 29, 2024 at 05:00 PM

DH

HK was a wonderful friend and classmate. We went separate ways after HS as many of us did. His sister and her husband were MYF leaders at Hopewell UMC and I was able to stay abreast of HK and Brenda through them. Fay and I send our heartfelt love, thought and prayers to Brenda and family. God Bless.

Dale Hash - April 29, 2024 at 06:41 PM