



## Paul P. Williams

March 20, 1921 - July 15, 2016

### Obituary of Dr. Paul Williams

DR. PAUL P. WILLIAMS of Leesburg, Florida, passed away on July 15, 2016. He was the Founding President of Lake-Sumter State College in 1962 and the Board of Trustees named him President Emeritus upon his retirement in 1981. In addition, the college Fine Arts Center is named in his honor. He was born on March 20, 1921, in Nanking, China, where his parents, Dr. Walter R. Williams and Myrtle M. Williams were missionaries. He graduated from high school in Cleveland, OH; received his B.S. degree, with honors, at Taylor University, Upland, IN; his M.A. degree at Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH; and his Ed.D. degree at the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. He was a three year veteran of World War II having served as Director of Physical Rehabilitation at McCloskey General Hospital, Temple, TX, and Brooke General Hospital, San Antonio, TX. Following World War II, he was Program Director of the Cleveland, OH, YMCA. Dr. Williams' educational service included being a high school principal at Willard, OH, and Perrysburg, OH, during which time he also served as a Graduate Lecturer in Education at Bowling Green State University and the University of Toledo. He returned to his alma mater, Taylor University, as Director of Health and Physical Education and Head Football and Baseball Coach. In 1956, he came to Florida to be Supervising Principal at Naples, FL Public Schools. Dr. Williams was named to Who's Who in American Education in 1951, was a life member of the

National Education Association and a past area President of the Florida Education Association. He was a member of the Florida Teacher Education and Professional Standards Committee and was appointed by the Governor to the Florida Children's Commission. In addition, he held membership in numerous other educational and service organizations. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Tavares. For over 50 years, Dr. Williams enjoyed RV travel and visited all states and neighboring countries. Preceding Dr. Williams' in death was his first wife, Lois, who taught school in Leesburg, and brothers, Dr. Walter R. Williams, Jr., and Dr. John P. Williams. Survivors include: Wife, Betty Lou Williams; son, Ronald E. (Nancy) Williams of Tampa, FL; stepdaughters Michele Hoppenstedt and Doris Pardo; step-son Robert Furnas; grandson Paton Williams; granddaughter Victoria Williams Wilt, seven step-children; eight great grandchildren, and five step great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Lake-Sumter State College Foundation, Leesburg, FL. Visitation hours are from 6-8p.m. on Monday, July 18 at Beyers Funeral Home, Leesburg, Florida. A graveside funeral service will be held at 10 a.m., Tuesday, July 19, at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, Leesburg.

# Tribute Wall

R3

“ Paul Williams was one of the finest men we've ever known. We are better people for having known him--always friendly, kind, the perfect gentleman and always with a willing ear to hear of any concern. Of all of the supervisors I (Bob) had during my 33 years as an educator, he was the very best. In my (Bob) opinion, he was the best president Lake-Sumter had or ever will have. The others have been good, yet none have loved the college as he did. His first wife, Lois, was a sweet, sweet lady and it was sad when she died. We were so happy when he and BettyLou decided to marry. She made the remainder of his life so happy. Again, a very sweet lady. Our sincere condolences to BettyLou and son Ron and family. You could not have had a better husband and father. He will be missed, but NEVER forgotten

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**Robert & Shirley Wall, 2229 Goodson Trl., Monterey, TN 38574** - July 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PJ

“ Dearest Ron and Nancy, our thoughts and prayers are with you. You are blessed with so many wonderful memories of fun and loving times RVing with your dad and holidays together, not to mention his valuable support in all things. A was a fine, Christian man of whom you must be so proud. God bless your family at this time. We love you. Pam and Larry

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**Pam & Larry Jones** - July 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ My sympathy to Betty Lou and the family in your loss. Dr. Williams will be remembered by many in our community. I'm proud to have known him. God bless you.

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**Donna Sarber** - July 19, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PJ

“ To Betty Lou and Family We are saddend to hear Paul has passed away, We dearly cared for Paul and could tease with him and get him to laugh. I shared the birthday month with him and always told him all good people are born in March. We are sorry we cannot be there to say good by to a really special man. Please accept our deepest sympathy for your loss. May he rest in peace.

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**Paul and Sandy Jaeger** - July 19, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Dr. Williams was a great pioneer and the founding father of LSSC. Long before it was in vogue he stepped forward to educate all citizens of Lake and Sumter County. What a great role model for all of us. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family Dick and Jane Scott

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**Dick and Jane Scott** - July 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ I am so sorry for your loss. He was a great man in life and especially in the Lake County Community. What he did with the college touched so many people's lives and generations to come. We were blessed to have had him as was your family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time .

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**Joy s. Blount** - July 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ I am so grateful that for the past ten years, my path has crossed with Dr. Williams on several occasions. He will be missed and my prayers are with Betty Lou and the entire family.

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**Linda Holiman** - July 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM

GN

“ So sorry to hear of Dr. Williams passing, he will be truly missed by many. Good memories of Dr. Williams at LSCC way back in 1968., truly a kind hearted man. Prayers to all the family

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**Gayle Lee Negri** - July 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Betty Lou: My deepest sympathy and condolences to you and your family. Dr. Williams was a great friend and mentor to me over the years. I appreciated my time with the both of you, especially around Christmas time. I hope that I can continue to visit you. The LSSC family will miss Him.

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**Mike Matulia** - July 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ We extend our most sincere condolences to you. Dr. Williams was a visionary and role model in our community. He will remain present with us and will not be forgotten.

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**Dr. Imke Casey and Jim Casey** - July 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM

ET

“ Your family is in our thoughts and prayers. Because of Dr. Williams' vision and dedication we have become e the college that we are today. We are forever grateful. God bless and keep you. Emily A. Lee

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**Emily A. Lee, Lake Sumter State College Trustee** - July 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ My heartfelt condolences for the family. Truly, a job well done. His legacy will continue in lake county as the college continues to grow and helps better the lives of individuals and the community as a whole. We need more leaders like Dr. Paul Williams. God Bless.

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**Mike Hall** - July 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ A candle in remembrance of a man who was a shining light to all he met. May he rest in peace. ###GESTURE###

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**Dr. Chuck Mojock** - July 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Our college, our community and the education profession have suffered a tremendous loss with the passing of Dr. Paul Williams. He was one of the finest men I have ever encountered. When I became President of Lake-Sumter Community College, he was so welcoming and gracious. He never criticized and was always supportive in that warm, genuine style of his that made him such a gentleman. As founding President, Dr. Williams built the College - not just with bricks and mortar but with a passion for educational excellence and student success that stands to this day. LSSC's stellar reputation and perennial selection as a Top Ten Percent College by the Aspen Institute is testimony to his legacy. I will miss Paul's warm smile, the twinkle in his eye and the firm handshake I received whenever we met. Cathy and I offer our most sincere sympathy and deepest condolences to his loving wife Betty Lou, their children and all the extended family. Dr. Chuck & Cathy Mojock  
LSSC President (Retired)

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**Dr. Chuck Mojock** - July 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *A candle in remembrance of a man who was a shining light to all he met. May he rest in peace.*

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**Dr. Chuck Mojock** - July 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ *So sorry for your loss. I have many fond memories of Lake Sumter.....*

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**Tim Sennett** - July 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

NH

“ *May God's grace sustain you as you grieve. I am so sorry. Love to the girls and Robby.*

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**Nancy Hudson** - July 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ *Betty Lou, I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Paul was a wonderful man and will be dearly missed. Love you. Melinda.*

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**Melinda corbley** - July 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ *Ron, Nancy and the Williams family, You are in my thoughts and prayers. I have many fond memories of your Dad and LSCC.  
Carolyn Hamric Haber*

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**Carolyn Hamric Haber** - July 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ *My Dear Friend, Betty Lou Your loss is shared by the entire community and especially by your friends who know of the way Paul cared for you, your loved ones and the LSCC family. I choose to remember Paul as he stood by your side in the lobby of the building that bears his name and promised to love you and keep you until death. I knew then that my friend, Blanche, was in good hands. Paul's eyes and his smile will be remembered fondly. Hugs from Dorothy.*

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**Rita Rosenquist** - July 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Paul P. Williams*

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July 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM

VK

“ *Ron and Nancy, what a wonderful legacy your dad left. Please accept sincere sympathy from me and my daughters. Stacey Anderson Lane and Dana Anderson Botner. In Christian love.*

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**Vivien Keen** - July 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *The world has lost a fine man, a true gentleman. My condolences to Betty Lou and the family.*

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**Lynn (Fritch) Miles** - July 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *So sorry for your loss. Paul will be greatly missed. I am honored for having known him even briefly.*

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**Sharon Coburn** - July 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM