



Willard "Russ" Wright

April 3, 1938 - January 26, 2017

Willard "Russ" Wright, 78, passed away on January 26, 2017, in Memorial Hospital of Carbondale.

Russ was born on April 3, 1938, to Willard and Pauline (Piquard) Wright in Chicago, Illinois. He grew up in Murphysboro, graduated from Murphysboro High School, and completed a Bachelor's, Master's, and Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University.

Russ spent five years in the Navy as a Communication's Officer and was aboard the aircraft carrier, Ticonderoga in Vietnam.

He spent his career on the faculty of SIU School of Medicine and the Department of Rehabilitation as a researcher, advisor, teacher, and coordinator of Clinical Medicine for the first year Medical Students. He retired in 2000 and was very active in the community. Russ was also very involved in his church, St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Murphysboro, and with Dirk's Fund Golden Retriever Rescue.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his beloved golden retriever, Max.

Russ is survived by Linda Herrold, his sweetheart of seventeen years, Linda's

daughter--Jen Hoskins and her fiancée Eric Herzog; and Linda's granddaughters Mackinzie Marcotte and Peyton Herzog;

his uncle Bo Piquard, an aunt Doris (Piquard) Winget, many cousins, and Rose, Emma, Millie and Pete.

A Celebration of Life is planned for Friday, February 3, 2017, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Event Center on Walnut Street in Murphysboro. Please join us in a toast to a man whose life touched so many.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Dirk's Fund Gold Retriever Rescue, 11312 Cragwold Road, St. Louis, MO 63122.

For more information, please visit www.pettettfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Willard "Russ" Wright*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *I served with Russ on board the USS Ticonderoga (CVA-14).
He was an exemplary officer and ship mate. You could always count
on him to have your back when on or off duty. He was the ultimate
optimist.*

Bravo Zulu, Russ.

Rest in Peace.

Charlie Dyer - April 02, 2017 at 11:43 PM

“ To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.
paraphrase of 2 Cor 5:8.

"For you (God) created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." Ps 139:13-16

"and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it." Eccl 12:7

"But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look', he said, 'I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God'....Stephen prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my Spirit'...When he had said this, he fell asleep." Acts 8:55-60

"Jesus answered him, 'I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.'" Luke 23:43

*"And I know that this man - whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows - was caught up to paradise. He heard unexpressable things, things that man is not permitted to tell."
2 Cor 12:3-4a*

Celebrate Russ' life as a race well run. Take comfort in knowing Russ is celebrating now in Paradise, safely back in God's presence and understanding all the unexpressable things. "the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Tim 4:6b-7

*"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Rom 8:38-39*

Emily hartmann - February 03, 2017 at 02:51 PM

MR

“*Russ was always smiling. His smile will be missed. He always called me the "Queen of Rockwood" and loved teasing me. We had some good talks over the years and I will always remember him as a caring and loving friend.*

Michele Myers (Queen of Rockwood) - January 31, 2017 at 09:59 AM

CE

“*Russ & Linda invited us into their wonderful home filled with golden retrievers when we were considering adoption. Then they did our home visit when we adopted our golden retriever Gabby from Dirk's Fund. A wonderful couple who did so much for Dirk's and the goldens. Our thoughts & prayers are with you Linda. RIP Russ. Ken, Cyndi, Gabby & Brinkley*

Cyndi & Ken Eplin - January 29, 2017 at 08:13 PM

KB

“*We'll miss you till we meet again! Every day was sunny when you were around! No topics we couldn't touch on without laughing. Our talks are what I will miss the most! My Dad Ray is at a loss, Linda we thank you for sharing, and for your kindness. God's blessings on you all! .*

Kim Baskin - January 29, 2017 at 05:38 PM

BJ

“ Loss is never easy and I didn't know him long..but in the 8 months I did know him, he was a wonderful person, he always had something positive to say, never complained, always made me laugh, a favorite customer for sure! He will definitely be missed!! 💔
My thoughts and prayers are with you all!!

Love
Brandy

Brandy Chandler (I Am Java) - January 28, 2017 at 11:37 PM

JS

“ Russ was a wonderful guy and will be greatly missed.

Jan & Steve - January 28, 2017 at 03:11 PM