



Anthony "Tony" Holbrook

April 16, 1926 - November 12, 2017

Anthony (Tony) Holbrook passed away November 12, 2017 at age 91. He was born in Ontario, California on April 16, 1926, to Roy and Helen Mayhew Holbrook.

Tony served the last three years of WWII in the Army Air Corp immediately after high school graduation. He graduated with highest honors from the University of California at Santa Barbara. He then studied in Hawaii and finished with his Ph.D. in speech sciences at the University of Illinois. He was an assistant professor at Wayne State University in Michigan before being at professor at Florida State University. He operated the speech science lab for 26 years until retirement.

Tony had a passion for sailing and spent months each year in the Bahama Islands. After retirement the trips included areas of the Caribbean.

His life took a different direction shortly after retirement when he became a volunteer with the National Park Service. He spent 14 years working summers in Yellowstone Park and his last year at Sleeping Bear Dunes in Michigan. Tony's love of teaching served him well and made him a natural for this position. He enjoyed working with the public and providing information about the Park. A friend once commented "Ask Holbrook a question, better pack a lunch." He was a thorough teacher in and out of the classroom.

Tony is survived by Johanna Holbrook, his wife of 46 years; children: Robin Holbrook, Palo Alto, CA, April Blain (Lee), Mountain View, CA and Christopher Holbrook (Nok) Bangkok, Thailand; stepdaughters: Melissa Wright, Bagdad, FL and Michele Knox (Scott), Tallahassee, FL; grandchildren: Colin Holbrook, Jesse Vitapatal, Patricia Blain and Haley Knox.

No formal service will be held at this time but a celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

David Conn of Bevis Funeral Home, Harvey Young Chapel in Crawfordville is assisting the family. (850-926-3333 or www.bevisfh.com).

Tribute Wall

MR

“ Tony Holbrook was one of the most unforgettable people I have ever known. a graduate student in education of the deaf and hard of hearing at Wayne State University, I studied phonetics and speech science and of course (like many of his lucky students) sailing with him, and to this day, many decades later, still enjoy the benefits of his very intriguing personality, wry sense of humor and intense drive to share the subject matter he loved so much with his students. (I still write myself notes in the phonetic alphabet) Tony had a way of letting serious students into his life, allowing them to share his academic interests through most unique windows. He always had time for them. He told marvelous stories about Hawaii and I still remember some of us practicing our Hawaiian dialects in the cockpit of Allegro, Tony standing in the companionway laughing out loud, clearly delighted at the meld of academia and nautical silliness.

It was with great sadness that I learned of Tony's passing. Knowing that he had hoped to find his way to Florida someday and myself again living in a sailing venue after years in the Southwest, I started looking for him online, checking University areas near the ocean. Eventually I came across his obituary.

My condolences go out to his family and I am wondering if there is a charity to which he would have liked a donation sent. I can be reached at: flightful2@gmail.com

Thank you very much.

Peggy vanOsenbruggen Rutledge

Megan Rutledge - October 15, 2018 at 06:30 PM