



## Douglas Paul Buck

October 5, 1952 - March 5, 2024

Douglas Paul Buck, born on October 5, 1952, in Marshalltown, Iowa, passed away on March 5, 2024, leaving behind a legacy of passion, achievement, and love. Doug, as he was affectionately known, was the son of Paul Ellsworth Buck and Darlene Esther Zahnd. One of his proudest accomplishments was his time playing trombone in the Marshalltown High School band, which proudly marched in the Rose Bowl Parade.

Doug had a deep love for movies and music, University of Iowa and the Florida State University athletics, the Chicago Bears and White Sox, pheasant hunting in Iowa, and he had an unmatched talent for trivia. He pursued his academic passions, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Iowa and later obtaining his Master's Degree from Florida State University in the same field.

Throughout his career, Doug made significant contributions to his community and beyond. He served in various roles, including with the Florida Senate Committee on Community Affairs, as Director of the Division of Housing and Community Development, as a Senior Analyst with the Florida Public Affairs Center at Florida State University, and as Director of Governmental Affairs for the Florida Homebuilders Association (FHBA). In his role as FHBA's Director of Governmental Affairs, Doug established the "Building a Safer Florida" grant program to fund education and training for the construction industry and the

“Disaster Contractors Network” to connect homeowners with contractors and suppliers’ post-storm. Doug helped pass multiple laws to increase affordable housing and improve the building climate in Florida and in March 2023, he was inducted into the Florida Housing Hall of Fame.

Doug will be deeply missed by his surviving family members: his sister Sue Linn and her husband Larry, his son Ryan Buck and his wife Linzee, his daughter Emily “Buck” Rhodes and her husband William Rhodes Jr., and his three beloved grandchildren: Hailey-Jo, Rylin and Dawson Buck. Doug’s deep love for his grandchildren brought him immense joy and fulfillment.

Doug's presence will be remembered fondly by all who had the privilege of knowing him and his legacy of dedication, kindness, and knowledge will continue to inspire generations to come. May he rest in peace.

A celebration of Doug's life will be held on Sunday, March 10, 2024 from 2-5 PM at 524 Beverly St., Tallahassee, Florida 32301. The gathering will be a tailgate-style reception, reflecting Doug's love for camaraderie and community. Family, friends, and all who were touched by Doug's kindness and spirit are invited to join in commemorating his life and legacy.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to be made to the Leon Humane Society in his memory. Your contributions will honor his love for animals and support the invaluable work of the organization. Todd Wahlquist is assisting the family with their arrangements (850-385-2193, [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)).

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAR **10**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Gathering Place

524 Beverly St.

Tallahassee, FL 32301

# Tribute Wall

JN

“ I worked with Doug through the Florida Home Builders Assn. He was astute, smart, and above all, a very honest person. He will be missed by all who knew him. Rest In Peace, Doug.

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Joseph Narkiewicz - March 11, 2024 at 02:26 PM

TR

“ I met Doug several years ago as my son Will was dating his daughter Emily. It was evident to me how proud and how much he loved Emily and Ryan his children and his grandchildren. Doug loved his family and his actions showed that. Doug your memories will last a lifetime for your children. I pray our lord will take away the hurt and heal your heart and give you strength during this time of loss.



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Tommy Rhodes - March 09, 2024 at 02:39 PM

DS

“ I was so saddened to learn of the passing of our esteemed Department of Urban and Regional Planning alumni, and my former boss and mentor. While there have been many beautiful tributes posted online, I wanted to express how important Doug was in shaping me both as a person and as a professional planner. His strong advocacy of safer communities saw the creation of the nation’s first long term redevelopment unit, which was located in the old DCA. His collaboration and negotiation skills helped bring about the strong building codes framework all Floridians benefit from today. While we didn’t talk explicitly about “climate change” in that era, we were well aware of the full range of our natural hazard threats and Florida’s ever growing vulnerabilities. Many of the programs he helped launch - from the local mitigation strategy to the residential construction mitigation program, remain models for disaster loss reduction. He pushed his staff to be excellent and gave us many opportunities to be that. He was demanding, but in ways in which it was clear he loved his mission and the people under his charge. Florida is a safer state because of Doug and will continue to be because of the legion of public and private sector planners, engineers, builders, and lobbyists he mentored.

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Dennis J. Smith - March 08, 2024 at 11:40 AM

DL

“ I met Doug through my daughter, Linzee Long Buck. Watching and sharing in Doug’s love of family was a privilege. He loved his children and grandchildren with a passion and depth that shows in their lives. His son Ryan, is such a marvelous Daddy and I know he learned many of those skills from always knowing how much he was loved.

God be with you Doug. Emily and Ryan can go forth always knowing that his love for you filled his whole being. Hailey-Jo, Rylin and Dawson, keep that sweet memory of your loving Grandpa in your heart. He will always be there, he is close by keeping watch over all of you, as he did on earth.

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**Dawn Long** - March 08, 2024 at 09:16 AM

CF

“ It is because of Doug’s creative genius and vision that Florida’s design and construction industries have benefitted from his ideas to create Building A Safer Florida and the Disaster Contractors Network. He made Florida’s built environment better through both endeavors. Thank you Doug. We will miss your genius.  
Cam Fentriss

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**Cam Fentriss** - March 07, 2024 at 11:19 PM

TR

“ Rest in Peace Doug.  
You were so loved and will never be forgotten.  
Your family celebrations and annual summer trips will always continue in your memory.  
You did good❤️  
Terry L. Rhodes

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**Terry Rhodes** - March 07, 2024 at 12:00 PM