



## William Clifford Rhodes

August 8, 1932 - October 5, 2019

William Clifford Rhodes died October 5, 2019. He retired as FSU Emeritus Professor of Chemistry in 2000 where he also served as Director of the Institute of Molecular Biophysics for ten years.

Bill was born August 8, 1932 in Birmingham, Alabama to Louise and John Clifford Rhodes. He graduated from Howard College (now Samford University) in Birmingham in 1954. After he earned his PhD from Johns Hopkins University in 1958, he joined the faculty at Florida State University. Bill loved studying and teaching the intricacies of thermodynamics and molecular chemistry, as well as contemplating the grand continuum of science throughout the universe. He loved family camping trips throughout the United States plus several solitary backpacking expeditions through the Appalachian Mountains. In addition to enjoying the music of Hank Williams and Patsy Cline, he was devoted to listening to classical music and was a generous contributor to WFSU-FM for more than fifty years.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Barbara Christine Wagner Rhodes, son Benjamin Edward Rhodes, daughter Lia Rhodes Mattuski (Charles) all of Tallahassee, son Thomas Allen Rhodes (Lettice) of Fort Collins CO, and grandson Alden Scott Rhodes of Salt Lake City.

The family wishes to express their gratitude for the excellent and

compassionate nursing care while he was a patient in the Health Center of Westminster Oaks, and for the gracious support and assistance of Big Bend Hospice.

Bill was a quiet, gentle, modest man with a brilliant mind, always searching for truth and honesty. He had a spiritual reverence for all aspects of the natural world, along with a sly sense of humor and word-play.

A celebration of Bill's life will take place in the Maguire Center at Westminster Oaks on Friday, November 8 at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations to Big Bend Hospice or to First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee. Susie Mozolic of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements. ([www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com) 850-385-2193)

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

NOV 8. 2:00 PM (ET)

Maguire Lifelong Learning Center  
Westminster Oaks  
1221 Commencement Cove  
Tallahassee, FL 32308

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ Dear Barbara,

*Bill was a wonderful friend and colleague. We share your grief*

*Terri and Jack Saltiel*

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**Jsck Saltiel** - October 14, 2019 at 10:28 AM

TI

“ *Bill's obituary is a lovely tribute, Barbara, for a gentle and brilliant, loving man.*

*I count myself beyond fortunate that my sweetheart brought with him such loving parents, and that I have been able to share so many years as part of your family.*

*I look back so fondly at the vacations we took together— AZ and WYO/SLC—and am grateful that Alden has known you and Bill as well as he has.*

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**Ticie** - October 10, 2019 at 03:58 PM

BR

*Dear Barbara, I just now saw that Bill had died. I always got along very well with him, as he was very authentic and caring. He would have been interested to see my pictures of the Yellowstone back country on my hikes alone. I was very happy to go out to Westminster and convince him to show up at the last Kasha conference with you as his designated nurse. He had a teakkt good time asking insightful questions of the speakers. The rules he cited against going were easy for me to run over. I am very glad to have known him, and trust that you are at peace.*

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**brant** - March 05, 2021 at 07:07 PM

BH

*Dear Barbara*

*I rarely look at Facebook so I have just seen your message about Bill's passing. I am sorry it has taken me so long to respond.*

*Bill was an amazing man. His kindness to me began in my first year in graduate school and continued for many years after my PhD. I admired him right from the start and my admiration of him only increased with time.*

*with my warmest regards*

*bryan henry*

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**Bryan Henry** - May 23, 2024 at 12:50 PM