



Terry S. Williams

DEC 17, 1942 - DEC 10, 2009



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Williams

Decatur-Terry S. Williams, 66, of Decatur, peacefully at rest 6:45 pm Thursday, December 10, 2009 at McKinley Court Care Centre.

Services to celebrate Terry's life will be held at 10:00 am Thursday, December 17, 2009 at Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home. Visitation will be held from 5-7 pm Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at the funeral home. Interment will be at Mt. Zion Cemetery in Deer Creek, IL. Memorial contributions may be sent to American Cancer Society. Online condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.gracelandfairlawn.com.

Terry was born December 17, 1942 in Cleveland, Ohio, and raised in Joliet, Illinois, the son of Bob and Laverne (Sprinkle) Williams. He married Marian Hammer on August 16, 1970 in Pekin, Illinois. She preceded him in death on December 7, 1992. He graduated from Joliet Township High School and Joliet Junior College. He received a B.A. from Northern Illinois University, an M.A. from Michigan State University, and a Masters of Fine Arts from Illinois State University. A retired Professor of Theater from Milikin University in Decatur, he got his start in teaching at Eureka College. In 1970 Terry became the Professor of speech/theater at Eureka where he expanded the theater curriculum to include providing a major in speech/theater. The significance of this major which included courses such as technical theater, history, and direction that it still serves as the basis for the colleges current theater program. Also, his work in production marked new levels of excellence for the program at Eureka. Among his well received productions were: The Importance of Being Ernest, JB, The Lady's Not For Burning, A Company of Wayward Saints, Antigone, and a world premiere of Less Forsell's The Coronation. Terry was inducted into the Eureka College Fine Arts Hall of Fame on May 7, 1999. He will be sadly missed by his one son: Thomas Williams, daughter in law Laina



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Williams, one granddaughter: Lauren Williams, one sister: Judy Boylan and her husband Joe of New Lenox, IL, one niece: Beth Kane and one nephew: Chris Boylan, one cousin Bud Knight of Dallas, TX and one brother in law: Paul Hammer along his wife Giuliana Hammer and their son Eric of Hegnach, Germany.

He was reunited in Heaven with his wife: Marian, and his parents, Bob and Laverne Williams, and his father and mother in law Chester and Alta May Hammer.



Tribute Wall

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JB

James D Bruner posted:

I can't believe that I just found this tribute page to Terry. It is 2020. I am 69. Words cannot express the love and respect that I have for Terry, He was my "Mentor in Life". He was such a loss to Eureka College and to all of us that were incredibly honored and blessed to be his students. Jim Bruner Class of 1973

December 21 at 6:59 AM

ES

Eric Simmendinger posted:

Hello Tommy, unfortunately we haven't spoken to one another for quite a while. This makes it even sadder to write under the present circumstances. It made me very sad to hear of your dad's death. When I heard of his severe illness I thought, "he'll get over it-everything will be OK". We think this because we simply don't want someone whom we love to die, especially when this person is the only remaining parent. When my dad had to fly very quickly to the States because Terry's situation had deteriorated, I had hoped that he would be by you and Terry in time, but this was no longer possible. I don't know whether this is good or bad, but I have the hope that it was somehow meant to be so. Hope is that which allows us to keep on going in many situations. Our hope gives us strength and courage. I am sure that your father has now found peace and wish you and your family strength for the next days and weeks, as well as the courage to confront your loss and to remember the many wonderful hours that you were allowed to share with one another. Please accept my most heartfelt sympathy and know my thoughts will be with you and your family in this time of mourning. With my best regards, Eric

December 18 at 8:47 AM

DS

David Smith posted:

I was a student of Terry's at Eureka, and played "Old Skips" in his production of "Lady's Not for Burning". I owe a lot to Terry in broadening my horizons. I appreciate so much more in life thanks to him. He will be sorely missed. Dave Smith

December 16 at 5:03 AM

PS

Pam Salzman posted:

Tom, Laina, and Lauren Please accept our deepest sympathies. May God bless you and your family in this time of sorrow. Love Vern and Pam

December 16 at 4:54 AM



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TH

Tammy Hunsaker posted:

Judy and family, we are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Tammy, Ben & the Hunsaker boys

December 15 at 8:57 AM

CW

Chris Van De Water posted:

Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family Tom. If you need anything please let us know.

December 15 at 3:45 AM

BF

Bruce Fowlkes posted:

On behalf of the community at Eureka College, our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Mr. Williams. Sincerely, Bruce Fowlkes Chaplain, Eureka College

December 14 at 7:55 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Terry by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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