

DR R. DONALD WOODSON  
BORN DECEMBER 24, 1931  
DIED FEBRUARY 6, 2012

He was a Christmas Eve baby who held multiple degrees and was a member of MENSA. Don Woodson was born on December 24, 1931 in Winfield, Kansas to Riley and Ruth Woodson. He attended Shawnee Mission High School and was salutatorian of the class of 1949. Don played basketball as an undergrad at the University of Kansas. Following undergrad, Don continued to “rock, chalk Jayhawk” and graduated from the University of Kansas Medical School in 1956.

Don served his country, attaining the rank of Captain in the United States Navy. Don’s service as a medical officer aboard the USS Constellation was one of many high points in Don’s life.

Don was an Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Cardiopulmonary Surgery, at the University of Illinois Medical College. Don left the University of Illinois for a position as Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, at the University of Toledo Medical Center. Don enjoyed privileges at virtually every hospital in Northwestern Ohio. Never abandoning his Midwest roots, Don often walked patients down the hall in his 3 inch heel cowboy boots.

Don also spent time practicing medicine in Southern California. He retired from medicine in the late 1990’s following his return to this area from Southern California.

Don graduated from the University of Toledo, College of Law and was admitted to practice law in Ohio on October 29, 1984. Don was involved in several Toledo Bar Association functions and was a member of the Lawyers and Doctors Committee for many years. Don was a partner in the Port Clinton law firm of Sodeman, Kirkhops & Woodson. Don reviewed medical negligence cases for the firm in addition to his other duties.

Don was a member of MENSA, the world’s oldest and highest IQ society. His wife, Sharon, recalled that “there wasn’t a subject I could ask that man he didn’t know.” Don liked to sketch and play the piano. He fished in Alaska, Canada and Mexico and hunted in Wyoming.

Don is survived by his wife Sharon, his sons, Riley and Wade, grandsons, Wyatt, Connor and Riley, stepson, Jeffery, stepdaughters Sheri and Monica, his stepmother Virginia and his sister Marjorie. Don was formerly married to Virginia Nalley Woodson and Donna Woodson. Don enjoyed teaching and believed that there was always a cure for any ailment.