

the Charleston Gazette

Obituary:

Furman Blake Wood



Furman Blake Wood, 70, of Elkview died Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2008, at Hubbard Hospice House in Charleston.

He was born May 28, 1938, in Roanoke, Va., to Furman Howard Wood and Willie Crawford Wood of Fincastle and Oriskany, Va.

Blake was preceded in death by his parents; by his younger brother, William Lewis Wood of Winfield; grandson, Nicholas Eller.

Blake is survived by his wife, Judith Hunt Wood of Elkview; and by his children, Natalie Pernel of Pinch, Tammy Waugh and husband, Rusty, of Ashton and Brent Wood of Charleston. He is survived by sisters, Patricia Ball of Charleston and Anita Cope and husband, Michael, of Colorado Springs, Colo. He is also survived by grandchildren, Robbie Pernel of Pinch, Jennifer Pernel of Charleston, Lindsey Pernel of Morgantown, Holly Pernel of Pinch and Christopher Wilson of Columbus, Ohio. Blake is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

The family moved from Roanoke to Charleston, and in 1957 Blake graduated from Charleston High School, where he participated in sports and other activities. He attended Morris Harvey College. He was a member of and attended the Baptist Temple in Charleston. He later attended the Elkview Baptist Church.

Blake retired from F.H. Wood and Sons trucking business and from the Charleston Newspapers.

For many years Blake coached Little League Football and Baseball. He was previously a volunteer firefighter with the Pinch Volunteer Fire Department.

Blake was a member of the Kanawha Southern Football Officials Association for 40 years. He also served on the Board of Southern Basketball Association for 40 years. For many years he was a Kanawha Valley Track and Field official. He was also a member of the Kanawha Southern Umpires Association, and was considered one of the finest softball officials in the state of West Virginia. Among the many awards he received are the Carl Walker Award for Integrity in Officiating, the KVFOA Forty Year Service Award, and the Dennis Osborne Award, given to those who spend time helping to develop and train other officials.

Many coaches, young athletes, and young officials are grateful for the instruction, inspiration, and guidance they received from Blake, and for helping them understand the true spirit of sportsmanship. We love him and will miss him. He gave so much to so many.

The family would like to thank the officials, coaches, and teachers of Kanawha County for their support throughout these past few months. We would also like to thank the Hubbard Hospice House staff for their kindness and caring spirit, as well as the staff at the David Lee Cancer Center and Dr. Ned Tiley.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Hubbard Hospice House, 1001 Kennawa Drive, Charleston, WV 25311.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, 2009, at the Hafer Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Bobby Sizemore officiating. Burial will be in Elk Hills Memorial Park, Big Chimney.

Friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan 2, 2009, at the Hafer Funeral Home, Elkview.

Online condolences may be sent to www.haferfuneralhome.net.

Hafer Funeral Home, Elkview, is in charge of the arrangements.
