

## Wm. David Woody

## Berry Academy class of 1964

My life has not been as near as exciting as most of you guys. I am a retired federal government employee. My father was a civil service employee before me and I just followed in his footsteps. I spent four years in the Air Force where I was lucky enough to be stationed in Scotland and Spain for almost three (3) years and three (3) months. My civil service career started out here in Pensacola after I finish college under the GI bill. At the time the only way I could get a job was by starting out as a fireman. This was something that I really enjoyed. Today I still get excited if I see a red fire truck. Unfortunately I broke my knee cap when a roof I was on collapsed in the process of trying to vent the building. I had to change careers and eventually moved into hospital administration. I retired as a hospital administrator for Beaufort Naval Hospital in Beaufort, South Carolina after a total of thirty four (34) years of government service. My life has been filled with many ups and downs as I'm sure most of us have seen. Mostly I have been very happy with my life so far. My wife, Jane has been the best thing that has happens to me since leaving Berry. We will be celebrating our 34 wedding anniversary this August. We are completely opposite in character and we never agree on anything. But I could not even imagine a life without her. Jane and I have two daughters Pam and Jennifer and they both take after their Mother. Pam is in her senior year at the University of Florida she is majoring in electrical and computer engineering. My younger daughter is a deputy sheriff with the Beaufort County Sheriffs Department she works as a victim's assistant and maintains



the sex offenders list for the county. My daughters have blessed Jane and I with four (4) grandchildren; Zachary 11, Wesley 10, Rayna 8, and our baby Allyson 2.

My favorite past time is buying old houses and fixing them up and either renting or sell via owner financing. I found that I enjoy this even more since I have been retired because I can take my time and do it right. I also enjoy designing furniture and building it and collecting Shawnee Pottery. In our younger days my wife and I enjoyed clogging and western dancing. These days my wife and I enjoy traveling and visiting art galleries and antique stores. I still enjoy fishing the local waters, but sold my boat a few years back and have not been going as much. I still play golf, but am very happy when I can break 100.

I still have many memories of Berry although I only attended two years. I remember one year when everybody came down with the flu. I was so sick I could not even get out of bed. I remember trying to find Melvin Hamrick and wondered off and got lost. Finally the nurse (What was her name?) told me just to stay in bed because the clinic was full. In November of 62 I got sick and they put me in the Floyd County Hospital. Someone had brought my radio to my room. During my stay they announced on the radio that President Kennedy had been



shot in Dallas. I believe my room became the most popular place in the hospital there must have been 40 people in there at one time and more out in the hall listening to the news. And by the way the only reason that Pilgrim won the snowball fight was because they pick the fight when all their people were there. I lived in both and



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Friendship was by far the best dorm. Mostly I remember how beautiful it was and all the great classmates that I had. My best friends at Berry were my cousin Alan Woody, Clyde Forrester, Michael Gladden and Ron Creel. My worst enemy was David Brown. He and I just never got along. We were always fighting about something. At our 20<sup>th</sup> reunion which both David and I attended, I had a chance to talk to him about this and he and I had a big laugh and I found out then what a great guy David "The Rock" Brown real was. Unfortunately Clyde, Michael, & David will not be attending this reunion but they always will be in my memories. My favorite instructor was David Cooper and Mary Loveday. They both left me with a bit of wisdom and all of it was not just from their classroom. Mrs. Loveday taught me to never say never and David Cooper taught me humility.

I really have enjoyed reading about my classmates. I think we have a much diversified group from law enforcement, banking, real estate, insurance, government, environmentalist, artist, contractors, musician, teacher, medicine, pharmaceutical, librarian, accounting, religion, entrepreneur and many other fields of employment. I am sure that each of you has contributed to our society and by doing so you have made it a better place to live for our future generations. To me reading about your life accomplishments was very exciting and the only thing better than that will be enjoying your company very soon. To those of you that will not be able to make it to our reunion I want to wish you the very best that life has to offer and hopefully you will be able to make it to our next reunion.

David Woody

*You can take the boy out of Berry but you can't take Berry out of the boy. Berry Academy 1964 to 2004 & 40 years later*