

## Clarence Edward (Ed) Wood

Clarence Edward Wood, 83, of Austin, Texas, left us peacefully on October 19th, after being surrounded by family and friends for his last few days. Known as Clarence or Sergeant Wood at work, and by Ed, Eddie, Dad, Grandpa, or Brother Wood at home and church, he was a caring husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather that wanted to make the world a better place by helping other people.

Born on August 12, 1941 in Maryville, Blount County, Tennessee grew up the son of James and Grace (Stanfield) Wood and brother to two sisters: Anne and Mary. His family also lived in Middlesboro Kentucky during his childhood before they began to move all over the world due to his father enlisting in the Army during the Korean War. They lived in Fort Pickett, Virginia (now Fort Barfoot), Japan, and Mascoutah, Illinois (where Ed graduated from high school) before ending up at Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas (now Fort Cavazos).

Ed had a kind heart and wanted to help others. He originally wanted to be a Methodist minister, so he went to a ministerial school in Illinois. When his parents moved to Fort Hood, he moved with them and enlisted in the Army—following in his father's footsteps. He served in Korea working in various communications related positions. One of his duties was intercepting messages being transmitted in morse code—quite ironic considering that he missed becoming an Eagle Scout only because he had not learned morse code—a requirement at that time. After serving in the army for three years, he returned to Texas—specifically San Marcos—to study at Southwest Texas State College, now Texas State University.

He worked at Aquarena Springs where he met the love of his life—Mary Kathryn DuPuy. After a short courtship, they were married on December 18, 1964. Married for nearly sixty years, they had four children, six grandchildren, and one great granddaughter as well as over one-hundred foster children. Ed was adopted by his father James, so he and Kathy wanted to give back by fostering children that were in need of a loving home. Their first foster daughter was Dorothy (Dave) who he thought of as a daughter. Their second foster daughter was Nichole who they adopted when she was five years old.

Ed served the people of Austin as a police officer for thirty-three years. In addition to his three years in the Army, he served three additional years in the Texas Army National Guard. After retiring as a police officer, he worked for the City of Austin for five more years. When he was not working, he liked to fish, read, work in various church callings, and do genealogy work to learn about his family history. He liked to visit old cemeteries all over the country trying to find his ancestors. He volunteered to drive people to medical appointments when they did not have friends or family to do so. He always enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and his great granddaughter.

Ed is survived by his wife Kathy, children Kitty, Rob, and Nichole (Jordan), grandchildren Anna (Leah), Ashley (Andrew), Michael (Taylor), Justin, Bryce, and Rose, great

granddaughter Lilly, and sister Mary (Barry). He was preceded in death by his daughter Ruth Anne, parents James and Grace, and sister Anne.

Ed's life will be celebrated on Saturday, November 2nd, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 3751 Trail Ridge Pass, San Marcos, Texas, with a visitation from 9:30 am to 10:30 am and funeral service at 11:00 am. All are welcome. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. Ed will be laid to rest at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio.