

SWAYZE, Walter Eugene [UNTD YORK '43] (1922 - 2014) Age: 91



DR. WALTER EUGENE SWAYZE With grace and in peace, Walter Swayze passed away at the age of 91 on January 28, 2014. He is survived by his wife Margaret; their children, David (Maret), Alan (Carol Hart) and Nan Anderson (Rick); grandchildren, Jonathan (Jenny), Emma (Brent), Daniel (Younglim), Katie (Will), and Erin (Tetteh); great-grandchildren, Cassidy, Paolo, Maelee and Amedu; Walter's brother Gordon; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, William Allen Swayze and Jennie Mae Roberts; two brothers, Gareth and Bill, and granddaughter Laurie. Walter was born in Toronto in 1922. His early love of reading led to a lifelong dedication to literature and the arts. His undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto and graduate studies at Yale, where he received his MA and his PhD, were interrupted by the Second World War, during which he served a tour of duty as a telegraphist in the Royal Canadian Navy. He met and fell in love with Margaret Hobbs while teaching summer school at Wesley College in Winnipeg, and they were married in 1947. After four years teaching at William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, Walter brought his young family back to Winnipeg where he chaired the English Department at Wesley College (now the University of Winnipeg) and taught until his retirement in 1987. Walter grew his team from a few professors to a large, vibrant faculty. He quickly gained recognition within the academic community as a scholar and teacher of national stature. He was also a member of Senate of this institution for 24 years and of the University of Manitoba Senate for eight. Over the years, Walter taught almost every course in the English curriculum from freshman to graduate level. He thrived on collaborating with his colleagues and took great pride in the success of his students, both in their studies and careers. He remembered them all and ran into them everywhere. Before and after retirement, in between his ongoing duties, Walter found the time and energy to publish articles, in such publications as *Queens Quarterly* and *Canadian Forum*, to lead numerous committees and to be a member of several literary associations. Walter represented the University on many Provincial Department of Education committees. He was active in Riverview and Churchill Park United Churches and engaged at the local, city, provincial and regional levels, taking satisfaction in many projects, such as the rebuilding of the Young Street Church in the inner city. While captivated by the world of words and ideas, Walter also loved people. He adored his beautiful, spirited wife. Together, he and Margaret were wonderful hosts and opened their home to all, offering great meals and wine, excellent conversation and much laughter. They formed countless lasting friendships with colleagues, students, neighbours and their church community and have loyally kept in touch throughout the years. As a couple they shared a love of the theatre, film, music, travel, their cottage at Gull Lake and, of course, a long list of very lucky dogs and cats. As a comedy team, they were outrageously funny. Walter was a man of faith. He was a gentleman and a gentle man. We will miss his optimism, corny puns, prodigious memory, variable plumbing repairs, never-ending stories and his fierce bear hugs. We will always feel the rewards of his deep love for family, sense of duty and responsibility, generous nature and passion for learning and reflection. Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held on Monday, February 3 at 2:00 p.m. at Churchill Park United Church, 525 Beresford Avenue. Special thanks to the dedicated and inspiring staff at the Health Sciences Centre, the Victoria General Hospital, Maples Personal Care Home

and Golden Links Lodge who have cared for Walter over the past three years. For those who wish to sign the online Guest Book please visit our website. www.chapellawn.ca 885-9715

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Walter entered the UNTD in October, 1943 as a Senior in Arts. He graduated in the Spring of 1944 with a BA in English Language and Literature. He had spent some previous summers working on the Great Lakes which might have been his motivation to transfer into the UNTD. His plans upon graduation were to join the Navy and then go on to post-graduate work. There is no detail as to his WWII RCNVR service.

Faculty of Arts, University of Winnipeg, Walter E. Swayze Scholarship in English.

This scholarship was established by members of the Department of English in honour of the contribution made by Dr. Walter E. Swayze to the Department through the years 1953-1987. It will be awarded to a student who reveals academic excellence and who is continuing in the Major or Honours program in English.

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