



## Woody Woodruff

April 17, 1956 - September 4, 2014

Joseph "Woody" Woodruff, 58, passed away suddenly on September 4, 2014. Born on April 17, 1956, in Oak Park, IL, and formerly of Marengo, IL, Woody resided in Minocqua for 29 years.

A good man is judged by what he does; a great man by how he serves; and the greatest of men by the joy and love he freely gives to others. Woody Woodruff was, indeed, one of the greatest of men whose life was cut short, far too soon.

Known to many as "Mr. Minocqua" and the unofficial "Mayor of Minocqua", Woody tirelessly promoted the interests of his much-loved Lakeland Area. Before moving "Up North", Woody was active in his home town of Marengo, Illinois, serving as a policeman and a paramedic. He was also co-owner of Marengo Insurance Agency. Woody owned Loon Land Trading Company and Twisted Root Emporium in Minocqua for 29 years where he was also the Executive Director of the Campanile Center for the Arts. He served on the Minocqua Area Chamber of Commerce Board, was active in the Island Business Association, was the current vice-chair for the Wisconsin Presenters' Network, was a current board member for the University of Wisconsin-Marathon County and was an active member of Holy Family Catholic Church.

Many who heard of his death, described Woody's spirit as "larger than life itself". Indeed, Woody lived life in full color; he was a vibrant man whose love

of a good story, laughter and a joke embraced everyone equally. Woody's eyes were alive with that inner fire of one who knew it was the people in his life that mattered most. In Woody's own words, "If a person's wealth is measured by his friends, I am the richest man in the world."

Woody is survived by his daughters Devin Woodruff (Kyle) Zarda and Morgan (Derrick Ammel) Woodruff; granddaughter Nora Ammel; partner-in-life Jody Peterson; mother Gladys Woodruff; sister Carol Woodruff (Patrick) Keedy; nephews Matthew (Kristi Cook) Kirchhoff, Cole (Amy) Kirchhoff; niece Jayne Kirchhoff; grandnephews Anthony Kirchhoff, Michael Kirchhoff, Parker Kirchhoff, and grandniece Brooklyn Kirchhoff. Woody was preceded in death by his father, Frank Woodruff.

A celebration of Woody's life will be held from 3:00 - 7:00 PM on Wednesday, September 10, 2014, at the Campanile Center for the Arts. A Funeral Mass will be held at 11:00 AM at Holy Family Catholic Church on Thursday, September 11, 2014, with visitation from 9:00 - 11:00 AM at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Campanile Center for the Arts or to the Lakeland Area Food Pantry.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 11. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Holy Family Catholic Church  
8950 County J  
Woodruff, WI 54568  
(715) 356-6284  
<http://www.holyfamilywoodruff.org>

## Funeral Mass

SEP 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

Holy Family Catholic Church  
8950 County J  
Woodruff, WI 54568  
(715) 356-6284  
<http://www.holyfamilywoodruff.org>

# Tribute Wall

NF

“ *Woody who will greet me now when I come to a show? You will be missed. Sincerely, Jane and Sarah Evans*



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**neighbors and friends** - March 29, 2015 at 09:05 PM

DS

“ *From Dallas, Texas, it just broke my heart to hear of Woody's passing. He always brighten my annual visits to Minocqua - I just thought he would always be there.  
My prayers for his family.  
Debbie (Gray) Schulz-Peters*

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**Debbie Schulz-Peters** - October 13, 2014 at 01:05 PM

RK

“ *Condolences to Devin and Morgan. Met you two a long time ago in Tomahawk.  
Roxanne*

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**Roxanne Klinger** - September 15, 2014 at 07:53 AM

JH

“ We ushers will greatly miss you at the Campanile performances where you greeted all the attendees with your genuine welcoming smile and comments.  
I shall miss you and your jokes at our program committee meetings as well.

*Love and sympathy to Jodi and your family,*

*Jeanne Heck*

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**Jeanne Heck** - September 11, 2014 at 10:54 AM

TD

“ I have known Woody for over 25 years, beginning when he was an active member of the LoonWatch Advisory Council at the the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College. He worked with LoonWatch for many years, assisting with fundraising and education efforts. More recently, I have had the opportunity to work with him on some art projects such as the Drawing Water art show (Sponsored by Trout Lake) that was hosted at the Campanile Center. On a personal note, he connected me with Campanile Center to purchase an abandoned harp that I now play, and he was always encouraging me to explore new genres of harp music. While my efforts are purely amateur, I think of him often when I play that harp and now will do so with more appreciation for his life and accomplishments. Terry Daulton, Mercer

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**Terry Daulton** - September 10, 2014 at 02:57 PM

DR

“ *Dana Riddel lit a candle in memory of Woody Woodruff*



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**Dana Riddel** - September 10, 2014 at 01:49 PM

SM

“ *Woody, you will be missed. Your smile, the hop in your step, the sparkle in your eye. Minocqua will not be the same without you. Perhaps the rainbow that was over Minocqua last evening was your way of lighting up our sky. Keep sending the rainbows! Our sympathy to Jodi and the girls. We know how much you have lost.*  
*Sue and John Morris*

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**Sue and John Morris** - September 09, 2014 at 05:50 PM

DK

“ *When I was new to the Minocqua area Woody was very welcoming whenever I would see him at events. He introduced me to others in the community and made me feel at home. Later on, serving on a committee together, I was amazed at his energy and devotion to the community. He was always able to light up a room with his humor. My sympathy to Jody and Woody's family.*  
*Doug Klumb*

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**Doug Klumb** - September 09, 2014 at 01:34 PM

DA

“ *We celebrate his wonderful spirit. Our prayers are with the family...*

*Diane & Randy Africano*

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**Diane Africano** - September 09, 2014 at 10:01 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Woody Woodruff .*



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September 09, 2014 at 09:01 AM



“ *We always looked forward to meandering through his store in Minocqua; it was one of the things we always did when we vacationed in the area.*

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**June Backhaus** - September 08, 2014 at 07:47 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to Woody's entire family. Having lived in the Minocqua area, I did some shopping in his stores and wherever I saw him, he always took time to chat and have that wonderful smile. He was a truly great guy who loved the Northwoods and Minocqua. Heaven has another angel. Rest in peace.*

*Hope Lotzer Statesville, NC*

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**Hope Lotzer** - September 08, 2014 at 11:03 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Chamber Memories*



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**Minocqua Area Chamber** - September 08, 2014 at 09:43 AM

MC

“ 1 file added to the album Chamber Memories



Minocqua Area Chamber - September 08, 2014 at 09:42 AM

MC

“ 1 file added to the album Chamber Memories



Minocqua Area Chamber - September 08, 2014 at 09:42 AM

MC

“ 1 file added to the album Chamber Memories



Minocqua Area Chamber - September 08, 2014 at 09:41 AM

MC

“ 1 file added to the album *Chamber Memories*



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**Minocqua Area Chamber** - September 08, 2014 at 09:41 AM

MC

“ 1 file added to the album *Chamber Memories*



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**Minocqua Area Chamber** - September 08, 2014 at 09:40 AM

MC

“ 1 file added to the album *Chamber Memories*



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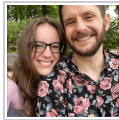
**Minocqua Area Chamber** - September 08, 2014 at 09:40 AM

KT

“ *The Blue Canvas Orchestra from the Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua has performed at the Campanile a number of times and have gotten to know Woody. It's their tradition to circle before each show at the tent and at the end of the circle to all shout out the word of the day. Last night, in the circle before the Old Last Night show, the word was "Woody". He will be missed far and near.*

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**Karen Traut** - September 07, 2014 at 04:26 PM



*THANK YOU! This was beautiful. He talked about all of you often and enjoyed ever time you guys were there!*

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**Morgan Woodruff** - September 08, 2014 at 10:16 AM



*Sure gonna miss Woody. It was always a treat to play at Campanile, but even more fun to get a chance to hang with Woody some. See you in the next set, Woody.*

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**T Bruce Bowers** - September 08, 2014 at 10:23 AM

PW

“ *I knew Woody through the Wisconsin Presenter's Network. He was one of those people that always brought fun and laughter to our conventions. In August, while in Minocqua, I stopped at his store and he was thrilled to give me a tour of his theatre. He was so proud of it and anxious to bring a wonderful season of entertainment to the northwoods.  
He will surely be missed at our next convention. Condolences to his family!*

*Pat Wehrley, Verona Area Performing Arts*

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**Pat Wehrley** - September 07, 2014 at 03:16 PM

TW

“ *Eternal rest Woody! I knew you from Marengo, IL. Lost touch with you and just recently re-connected via Facebook. Deepest sympathy to all.*

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**Teresa Lindsay Williams** - September 06, 2014 at 05:25 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Woody Woodruff .*



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September 06, 2014 at 04:26 PM

JB

“ *Woody was such an uplifting and genuinely nice person that it is hard to believe that he is gone. If you were having a bad day, you only needed to pass Woody on the street and see his smile and hear him say "Isn't this a beautiful day?!", and suddenly you felt better. He cared so much for the Minocqua area, its people and its visitors and that enthusiasm will surely go unmatched now that he is gone. There's already a little less light downtown without him. We will miss him. Our love to Jody, whom we adore, and to his daughters. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Dave and Jacquie De Bauche*

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**Jacquie & Dave De Bauche** - September 06, 2014 at 03:58 PM



“ To our dear friend Woody , Wow all those fun times , laughs , jokes , and always a happy face . Your the best there is . No one was more dedicated to his work then you , always giving that 120 % to everything and making sure every detail was complete . I guess Our Lord saw the great job you did down here and he needed a man like you at his place . Go in peace to serve the Lord Dear friend .

Our prayers and sympathies to your Dear Jodi , your Daughters and family . You are all in our Prayers  
Peace and Blessings

Jim & Sharon Jacobi

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**Jim & Sahron Jacobi** - September 06, 2014 at 01:08 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Woody Woodruff .




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September 06, 2014 at 12:59 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Woody Woodruff .




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September 06, 2014 at 12:54 PM

JJ

“ Jim & Sharon Jacobi purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Woody Woodruff .



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**Jim & Sharon Jacobi** - September 06, 2014 at 12:37 PM

Arleen Handrich

“ We will all miss his funny comments when he introduced our concerts. He was a true pillar of the community. Rest in peace Woody.

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**Arleen Handrich** - September 06, 2014 at 12:50 AM

SR

“ Woody will always be remembered for his smile, which he was never without. Also from the moment I met him 1 1/2 years ago, I was so impressed by his boundless energy and his generosity. His passion for the entire Lakeland area and in particular Minocqua was readily apparent in how much he gave back to the many community groups in the area. I am glad to have known him, but wish I had known him longer. He will be missed by many throughout Northern Wisconsin and beyond. My heartfelt condolences extend to his entire family, but in particular to Jody and his daughters. In Peace.

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**Sharon Reilly** - September 05, 2014 at 08:33 PM

DE

“ 1 file added to the album *Wine Women and Winter 2013 with Woody*



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**Dennis** - September 05, 2014 at 07:07 PM

LL

“ *I had the privilege of knowing Woody through the Wisconsin Presenters Network and he brightened all our lives with his humor, warmth, generosity of spirit and his love of the arts. His jokes were legendary and many nights I recall almost competitive joke telling late into the night between Woody and Jim O'Connell. We would all go to bed with our cheeks sore from laughter and a big smile on our face. Heaven just got a lot more fun! Sending blessings and comfort to his family and loved ones.*

*Leslie LaMuro*

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**Leslie LaMuro** - September 05, 2014 at 04:59 PM

PB

“ *I am new to the UW-Marathon County Foundation Board of Directors, of which Woody has been a member of for years, and had never had the privilege of meeting Woody prior to my first Board meeting. I have appreciated his insight, willingness to speak up and am learning of the deep respect Woody garnered from other veterans on the board. Thoughts and prayers to Woody's family and friends.*

*Patrick Bradley*

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**patrick Bradley** - September 05, 2014 at 03:17 PM

UD

“ *UWMC Board of Directors purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Woody Woodruff .*



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**UWMC Board of Directors** - September 05, 2014 at 02:51 PM

GB

“ *Woody you are going to be missed so much. You are the greatest friend we could have. You were one of the first people we really got to know when we first moved to Minocqua several years ago. We are going to miss your enthusiastic personality and your great jokes. We will do our best to carry on your legacy with the Campanile Center for the Arts. Love you great friend. There is a big void in the Northwoods today!*



*Greg & Ginny Buzzell*

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**Ginny Buzzell** - September 05, 2014 at 11:34 AM

CC

“ *Gone too soon, he left his legacy of love for the arts and the town of Minocqua. My heart goes out to Jody, his two daughters, family and endless friends. I will forever remember his contagious smile, bottomless cup of coffee and friendship.*

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**Christa Conner** - September 05, 2014 at 10:51 AM

BE

“ *RIP friend, they must have a mission for you, up there. You will be missed greatly!*

*Sympathy to your family!*

*Beverly Bishop - Bowman*



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**bev** - September 05, 2014 at 08:18 AM

VA

“ *Woody was a remarkable man, and he will be greatly missed. I hope the coming days will bring you peace and help you draw strength from the caring hearts around you. RIP my dear friend.*

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**vickie abraham** - September 05, 2014 at 07:45 AM

MB

“ *30 years. Half our lives. You will be missed, my friend.*

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**Mark Batell** - September 05, 2014 at 06:32 AM

JK

“ *I just can't believe it. I will miss you...rest in peace.*

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**Jane Kincheloe** - September 04, 2014 at 10:51 PM

BK

“ *Everyone will always remember Woody for his smile, his energy, his dedication.....The Northwoods has lost a dear friend. Sympathies to Jody, to his daughters, his family and all his friends.*

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**Barb Koester** - September 04, 2014 at 06:52 PM

SW

*With deepest heartfelt sympathy to the entire Woodruff Family. We knew Woody long ago from Marengo and most recently from the Wisconsin Northwoods where we now call our second home. He was certainly a outstanding person and will be sorely missed. God Bless all.*

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**Steve and Adele Weskerna** - September 06, 2014 at 07:08 PM

VB

“ RIP Woody



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**Vonnie Braun** - September 04, 2014 at 06:43 PM