



Dr. Robert L. Shannon

May 15, 1926 - December 5, 2018

Robert L. Shannon, 92, of Columbia, passed away Wednesday, December 5, 2018. Born on May 15, 1926 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, he was a son of the late Grover and Vera Shannon.

Bob served in the U. S. Navy during World War II and received his bachelor's degree from Wittenberg College in Springfield, Ohio where he lettered in varsity tennis and basketball and was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. He earned a master's degree from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, and his doctorate in education from Florida State University. He taught children and young people in all grades and subjects as well as coaching tennis and basketball.

After serving on the faculty of his alma mater Wittenberg College, he joined the charter faculty at the University of South Florida in Tampa in 1960 where he was professor of education and assistant dean for undergraduate programs. He was instrumental in the design of the USF College of Education building. Traveling with support of Educational Facilities Laboratory, he studied innovative buildings and education programs across the country. Subsequently, he served as EFL's principal consultant for teacher education facilities. For several years, he directed study abroad programs; first in Guatemala and then for several years in London, England. He didn't believe students should go to London and spend time sitting in tablet arm chair desks. Rather, he made the city the curriculum, immersing students in all aspects of British life and culture.

He received the 1972 Mortar Board Award for Teaching Excellence at USF and in 2007 was named distinguished alumnus of South Side High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He was the author of three books and several journal articles. But tennis was his passion. He traveled widely and never missed an opportunity to play tennis, making new friends both on and off the court wherever he went. He was a U.S. Professional Tennis Association certified teaching pro and over many years taught several people, young and old, the game of tennis.

He especially appreciated good books, interesting words, impeccable grammar, pretty girls, stimulating conversation and enjoyed a long shower and a drink of Scotch whiskey in the evening. And he usually had a mischievous glint in his eye.

He is survived by his wife, Donna; daughter, Susi Long and son-in-law Jan Long of Columbia; daughter, Jennifer Shannon of Tucson, Arizona and granddaughter, Kelli Long currently living in Yerevan, Armenia. He was predeceased by his parents, Vera and Grover Shannon; his sisters, Mildred Oswald and Marjorie Shannon, as well as many friends and former colleagues.

He was a very special person to all who were fortunate enough to know him and he will live in their hearts forever.

A visitation will be held from four until six o'clock, Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel, 7600 Trenholm Road Ext., Columbia.

Memorials may be made to Leeza's Care Connection, 201 St. Andrews Road, Columbia, SC 29210 or Wittenberg University, 200 W. Ward Street, Springfield, OH 45504.

Events

JAN **Visitation** 04:00PM - 06:00PM

16

Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel
7600 Trenholm Road Extension, Columbia, SC, US, 29223

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Shives Funeral Home - January 05, 2019 at 03:54 PM



“ Dr. Shannon was a tremendous influence on me during junior high school at Florida High in Tallahassee where I was fortunate to have him as my teacher for both the seventh and eighth grades. He demanded excellence from his students, yet gave us freedom to choose what we would study in the core curriculum in each grade. He believed in student empowerment as the best way to achieve student involvement in the classroom. He was truly a national treasure for those students fortunate to have him as their teacher. I still have and treasure the letter he wrote to my mother at the end of the eighth grade, thanking her for the opportunity to have been my teacher for two years, and expressing his belief I would excell in the future. I have always measured every teacher and professor I have had since those two years by the example he set for me. He gave new meaning to the advice to always do your best, and I will forever remember the inspiration he gave me to do just that. He is with each of us who knew him in spirit, and I continue to feel encouraged by the memories of his instruction.

Jonathan Whitney - December 16, 2019 at 11:38 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Robert L. Shannon.



January 14, 2019 at 07:00 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Dr. Robert L. Shannon.



January 14, 2019 at 11:32 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dr. Robert L. Shannon.



January 13, 2019 at 03:05 PM



“ Bob was not just a family friend, he was a grandfather figure. He taught me how to play tennis at the courts near his house. He came to majority of my basketball and soccer games cheering me on right next to my parents. He helped teach me how to drive a manual car even though it took me forever to get into first gear on a hill. He was so patient and understanding. On Halloween Bob and his wife Donna would make cupcakes and buy a lot of candy for the trick or treaters. Unfortunately they didn't have many kids in their neighborhood so they would save the goodies for me. My birthday is the day after Halloween, so not only did I get candy but Bob would also decorate posters and hang them in front of my house and also buy me a wonderful ice cream cake. He did that every single year until I was 18 years old. These memories as well as so many more I will cherish for the rest of my life.

Bob was one of the most loving, caring, intelligent, athletic, genuine people I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. I will truly miss Bob and his tennis shorts and long white socks.

Love and miss you always,

Carson Bowman

Carson Bowman - January 12, 2019 at 02:11 AM



“ 68 files added to the album LifeTributes



Celebrating the Life of
Robert L. Shannon



Shives Funeral Home - December 28, 2018 at 09:12 AM



“ I have known Bob Shannon - or Dr. Shannon - for 56 years, meeting him as a 10-year old, new kid on the block in Temple Terrace, Florida. His daughter, Susi, became my pal - and dearest friend.

Dr. Shannon's energy and enthusiasm and ever-present optimism were always in ample supply. One walk through the doorway of their Druid Hills home, and this 5th grader/pre-teen/teenager was made to feel like she was something pretty special. As I grew older, I realized that Bob Shannon's charm was as much a part of him as his excellence on the tennis court or his intellect in the classroom. While it is impossible to describe a person in one word, one word that comes to mind immediately is "delightful". He delighted in learning, in laughter and in love. He delighted in teaching and in traveling, in a good book, a little dance and a smooth glass of whiskey.

I will always cherish my memories of Susi's dad. I can say without a doubt that his outlook was contagious, his enthusiasm infectious, and his legacy "sensational". He will truly be missed.

("Sensational" Sandy)

sandy pugh - December 16, 2018 at 07:20 PM



“ I've known Dr Shannon for several years now. I was his landscaper for several years. We embarked on such a wonderful friendship. On days that I was scheduled to do his yard, I would always make sure that I allowed extra time so that we could "talk". I cherished those moments immensely. He would always leave me with knowledge that I could carry with me in my early travels. I will truly miss you Mr Shannon.

Royce Bowie - December 09, 2018 at 10:03 PM



“ I was one of the many students at USF fortunate enough to travel to London with Dr. Shannon long ago. He had a wonderful energy and love of life. When we found out other students from the U.S. had to attend classes, we asked about it and he told us he didn't bring us all the way to London to sit in a classroom. Instead, he arranged wonderful trips to learn about the government, education and culture first-hand. We learned so much from him and had so much fun being around him. I will always cherish my memories of Dr. Shannon as well as my friendship with his daughter, Susi, another wonderful educator of educators. Prayers and condolences for his wife , Donna, and family.
Beth Jones

Beth Jones - December 09, 2018 at 11:45 AM



“ I am deeply saddened today as I read that my great old Friend and tennis partner "Bob" had passed. He was such a wonderful guy who lived on the other street from me near Tampa Florida many years back. I looked forward each Christmas season as He would send wonderful season's greeting and a special note about his tennis and travels. He and I and his Lovely wife Donna enjoyed talking and sharing the politics of the world and the events of the day on many occasions. Dr. Bob was kind and always looking for laughter and fun in life. He encouraged me and I am sure that he encouraged and uplifted many others in his life. He loved tennis had a beautiful game. He always wore the traditional Wimbledon White when he played. He loved education and I will never forget that we talked about writing a book about the people in our small neighborhood and how everyone had a story behind them. Above all, he loved Donna and his family. Dr. Bob will be sorely missed - Love and condolences to Donna and family.

Johnny Huneycutt

Johnny - December 09, 2018 at 08:27 AM