



Brantley "Buzz" Holt III

April 24, 1943 - May 1, 2017

Brantley "Buzz" Holt III, 74, of Benicia passed away Monday at his home following a courageous battle with cancer. He was born in Boston and raised in Seattle, where he graduated from Lakeside School. He has called Benicia his home for more than 30 years. Mr. Holt earned his Bachelors degree from Harvard and two Masters degrees, one in History from UC Berkeley and one in Geology from UC Davis. He worked as an educator for more than 40 years, most of those at Diablo Valley College.

He enjoyed traveling, especially to Paris and will be remembered for his long and crazy road trips.

He is survived by Bonnie, his wife of 38 years; children Stacey (Jim) Whitney, Brantley Charles "Charlie"(Nancy) Holt, Jill (Mark) Tyhurst and Susan Sterikoff(Dr. David Smith); his brother Dr. Wolcott (Elizabeth) Holt; sister Hilary (Ruth McDonald) Holt; step brothers Rev. Corbet (Myra) Clark, Bruce Clark, Tripp Clark & Tom (Kate Rogers) Clark; stepsister Lucy Snow (Shira Tannor); and 12 grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be private.

Comments



“ I was going through some old notes of mine when I stumbled upon my notes for Buzz's history class at DVC. I googled him to see what he was up to after all this time and am sadden to hear of his passing. He was the best professor I ever had in my whole educational career. It was because of him I continued to pursue knowledge and now find myself studying to become a doctor. I don't think you could ever find a man quite like him again. Rest in peace
-CE

Chris - August 30 at 01:58 AM



“ I recently googled Professor Buzz Holt because he had a significant impact on my education, and I am incredibly saddened to see that he has passed away. I want to share this story about Professor Buzz with his survivors and family members because I don't know if I would be where I am today without Professor Buzz Holt.

During my first semester of community college at Diablo Valley College, I took Professor Holt's "History of Western Civilization class." I was fresh out of high school and was not super invested in my education. Professor Holt came in wearing board shorts and looked like he was ready to attend Harvard. Regardless he taught an excellent class, and I enjoyed his lectures a lot. For the course, we had to do a Map Project, which was an extremely hard assignment for me. I ended up not submitting the project and felt that I'd just do well on the final to pass the course. Evidently, I missed the day the final was on and panicked by immediately emailing Professor Holt. Professor Holt responded and asked if I could meet with him, which I did right away. We spoke, and he was confused about how I missed the day of the final because we talked about the date and time multiple times in class. To his credit, towards the end of the semester, I ended up falling asleep in class, so I was not paying attention. Professor Holt told me that I could take the final next semester and said, "If you get a B on the Final, I'll give you a B for the course."

The next semester came by, and I showed up at Professor Holt's office and took the course as he said. Honestly, I don't know what I wrote down or what I even said on that final, but I wrote about three pages of history for that final. A few weeks later, I see that my grade has been changed from a "D" to a "B," just like Professor Holt said.

I want to thank Professor Holt for giving me that opportunity because today, I am about to graduate with my Masters's Degree in Public Administration and currently work for the California State Senate. I will never forget that Professor Holt allowed me to take a Final after the course was finished and gave me a "B." From that day forward, I never missed a Final and always remembered the chance that Professor Holt gave me. Thank you, Professor Buzz Holt, and Rest In Peace.

Christian Orozco - April 26 at 02:10 AM



“ Oh man! I was just googling to find out where this guy was and I am sad to see he's passed away. He was, hands down, THE best history teacher I ever had. hung on to his mandatory reading, "History of Western Civilization" for years after I took his class at DVC in 2008 (?) just because it reminded me of him and his wonderful lectures. He was one of those people you either loved or, well, didn't love. I loved him and I loved his passion for history and for teaching. He was very forgiving; he just wanted us to get the material, and get it right. A real gem of a man and an educator. I miss him and I think of him every single time I read history books/papers to this very day. I will never ever forget this guy. I'll never forget the very first day of class when he explained that he takes questions at the end of class, not during. For if we have any questions about his infinite knowledge of history, they will likely be answered in the lecture. If not, it better be a very very good question. Rest In Power, Buzz Holt.

Holly Ann - May 29, 2020 at 12:29 AM



“ I consider myself blessed to have worked with Buzz Holt. He was intelligent, fair, and kind - too few with this combination of virtues exist anywhere, and his presence at DVC made all of our lives better. Without his counsel, criticism and support, I would not have seen DVC at its best, and for this I thank him. God bless Buzz's family for sharing him with us.

Peter

Peter Garcia - May 16, 2017 at 04:18 PM



“ Mr. Holt was my history teacher this semester and the first time I've met him . Without a doubt , even with the short time I knew of him , he was one of the most engaging and passionate teachers at DVC. When he spoke I could hear the love he had for history and I will always cherish his uniqueness. Thank you Mr. Holt for a truly remarkable class experience and my deepest condolences go with his family . Sincerely , Austin Minton .

Austin Minton - May 09, 2017 at 04:02 PM



“ I read of Brantley Holt III death In the Sunday Seattle times. He and I were fifth grade classmates at Clyde Hill Elementary School, Bellevue Washington. Brant was a brilliant kid, unquestionably the smartest person in the room. I remember him completing assignments quickly and without error and the teacher not grading fairly because Brant “was not working hard enough.” I also remember Brant drawing all manner of fanciful war planes studded with machine guns, spitting bullets everywhere. It’s interesting we both have similar beards and careers teaching at small colleges. Who would have thought?

Steve Carkeek - May 08, 2017 at 10:56 AM



“ Please accept my deepest sympathies and prayers on your loss of this very dear man. Buzz was a treasure on our campus, and I was blessed by his assuring smile, his wit, and his wisdom for many years on committee, passing each other between classes, and chats at his office door. He touched the lives of a number of my students--his gift for teaching was solid, deep, real, unwavering.

Jackie Halm - May 07, 2017 at 12:04 PM



“ I was hired at Diablo Valley College three years ago, and shared an office with Buzz for the first six months. He was always helpful, witty, kind-hearted and taught me much from his vast experience on campus.

I owe much to Buzz, and wish his family members the best in these tough times.

Thank you Buzz.

John Corbally - May 05, 2017 at 01:24 PM



“ He loved to tell stories of "song, women, and drink" during class. He was a walking encyclopedia and a cheerful educator. I am so sorry for your loss.

Annie Sanderson - May 04, 2017 at 08:59 PM



“ Our deepest sympathies to Bonnie and all the family. Buzz was a true scholar and a gentleman, a devoted teacher and an outstandingly gentle soul. It was a great privilege to be his colleague in the history department at DVC.

As Bonnie knows, my wife Linda has been a frequent "guest" in the infusion clinic at Kaiser Vallejo along with Buzz during the past few months. Like Buzz, she has been battling a cancer of the blood. Thus we were able to spend some quality time with Buzz as he and Linda received their various infusions and transfusions. We recalled many good times together, reminiscing about days gone by.

The last time we saw Buzz, about a month ago, he was sitting in the infusion chair next to Linda. As we bid him farewell, my silent prayer was simply this:

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.

Requiesce in pace, dear Buzz.

--Jim Rawls

Jim & Linda Rawls - May 04, 2017 at 08:48 PM