



Dr. George G. Suggs Jr.

October 17, 1929 - July 31, 2020

Dr. George G. Suggs, Jr., Professor Emeritus of History at Southeast Missouri State University has died at age 90.

In 1964, Dr. Suggs, after receiving his doctorate in history, moved his family to Cape Girardeau accepting an Assistant Professorship in the History Department at Southeast Missouri State University. What had been anticipated as a first stop in his career as a college professor and historian turned into a lifetime home. Teaching, researching and publishing, he rose to the rank of Professor and retired from the University in 1995. After his retirement, he continued to be a prolific writer.

An interest in the history of organized labor led him to establish the first college course in labor history offered by any college or university in the State of Missouri. He researched and published several books and articles on the struggles of organized labor. Dr. Suggs attributed his interest in labor history to his working-class background.

His love of writing led him to subjects other than labor, including Missouri water mills (in collaboration with a fellow faculty member, Jake Wells), a collection of personal anecdotes about life in his small southern hometown, a novel, and a series of interviews with Rush Hudson Limbaugh, Sr.

George G. Suggs, Jr. was born on October 17, 1929 in Bladenboro, North Carolina. His father was a mill hand in the local cotton mill. From his birth, his mother insisted that her son, then know as Graham, would never work in the mill, a fact that Dr. Suggs always attributed to his pursuit of education and

scholarship.

After attending Wake Forest College for two years and unable to afford tuition, Dr. Suggs taught high school in North Carolina before joining the Air Force. On Easter Sunday while serving in Denver he met Helen Virginia Kindall, a grade school teacher. They were married on May 15, 1954.

Dr. Suggs finished his undergraduate and master's degrees at the University of Colorado, before returning to teach high school in North Carolina. After a year at Northwestern University on a John Hay Fellowship, he soon determined his future was in college education. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Colorado in 1964. Later he attended Brown University on Labor Studies Fellowship.

For more 56 years he was a member of Centenary Methodist Church where Dr. Suggs taught Sunday school and was for many years of member of the church board.

His survivors include his wife, Virginia, four children, George Owen (Lisa) Suggs, Suzanne (Allen) Mortimer, Beth (Jerry) McKay and Lorrie (Dean) Edwards; twelve grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to Centenary United Methodist Church, Southeast Missouri Hospital Hospice, the Suggs Endowed Scholarship at Southeast Missouri State University Foundation or the First Baptist of Bladenboro, North Carolina.

Private service and burial will be held.

Cemetery Details

Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery

2315 Highway 61 North
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 334-1909
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

HW

“ *Our deepest sympathy, He will be missed.*

Harold and Sue White

Harold and Sue White - August 09, 2020 at 04:59 PM

GA

“ *We send our deepest sympathy and much love to each one. We are blessed to have known Graham over the years and what a wonderful person he was..a life well lived. The pines still say "Carolina Carolina". Love, Greg and Gail Allen*

Gail Kelly Allen - August 05, 2020 at 02:57 PM

CW

“ *To the Suggs Family,
Please accept our sincere sympathy.*

Calvin and Carol Wells - August 04, 2020 at 07:56 PM

GS

“ *Bill & I send our sincere sympathy to the Suggs family. We are honored to know, admire & respect George Suggs both as an esteemed professor, friend & neighbor.*

georganne syler - August 04, 2020 at 04:26 PM

AB

“Authenticity, integrity, dignity and respect are words that mirror my remembrance of George Suggs. He was a support and mentor to several of my family as they attended college. When we talked, I always felt that he saw my best self and my potential. I was honored to have known him and stayed in contact with him since 1976. I send my sympathies for your loss. I am grateful for his life and how he lived it.

Andrea Beacham - August 04, 2020 at 11:18 AM

RW

“To Hellen and All your family, I'm very sorry to hear of the passing of George. Seems like only yesterday you and I were teaching together at Hawthorn/Clippard. Many prayers for all your family. 🙏🙏🙏🙏



Roger Williams - August 03, 2020 at 12:24 PM

CT

“Dr. Suggs was one of my favorite History professors and lifelong friend. He was a kind, gentle man who never forgot his roots. He kept in touch with me throughout his life and would send my wife Cam and me a Christmas card every year. When he came to Madison he would visit. I miss his intellect, his wisdom but most of all his kindness. We've lost a great friend and scholar. Rest in peace my friend. I love you and I know you're at peace now. Until we meet again, may God keep you in his loving arms. Your memory will always be in my heart.

Charles Taylor, your student and friend

Charles Taylor - August 03, 2020 at 11:18 AM

BG

“ *Dr. Suggs was truly one of the finest men I was honored to know. Few people are both brilliant and approachable but Dr. Suggs was both. He quite simply made the world a better place.*

Bill Green - August 03, 2020 at 07:59 AM

SS

“ *I was a graduate assistant to Dr. Suggs while working on my Master's in History. He was such a kind and generous person and a terrific mentor. It was a joy to work with him. My condolences to his family.*

Sherry Howard Salois - August 02, 2020 at 11:43 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. George G. Suggs Jr..*



August 02, 2020 at 04:47 PM

PM

“ *I didn't know Dr. Suggs well, but I did have the pleasure of chatting with him several times when we attended the same church (when I lived in Cape). He was truly a gentleman who treated others with the utmost courtesy and respect. My condolences to his family, who will be in my thoughts and prayers at this time of great loss.*

Patti Miinch - August 02, 2020 at 04:42 PM

JJ

“Graham ,as he was known to his NC family, was a first cousin to my mother Alma Kelly. After he went away from home to follow his dreams , he would always return on holidays or breaks from school and make the rounds to catch up on family news. One Christmas he brought me a present. Of course it was a book. But as a little girl I was so proud to be remembered. I am so sorry such a good man has passed from us. Condolences to his immediate family.
Sincerely, Judi

Judith Jones - August 02, 2020 at 03:15 PM

MD

“With my sympathy- I remember Dr. Suggs from my undergrad years at SEMo (1977-1980). I majored in history so had several classes that he taught.- Marilyn

Marilyn DeLine - August 02, 2020 at 02:37 PM