



## Robert Lee Marston

May 11, 1926 - May 2, 2020

Robert Lee Marston, formerly of Charles City County, died on May 2, 2020 at Morningside at Bellgrade Assisted Living of health issues complicated by COVID19. His obituary was written by himself in 2018.

I, Robert Lee Marston, the only issue of Robert Stewart Marston of Charles City County and Lula Lee Brooks Marston of Louisa County was born in Richmond, Virginia on January 11, 1926. My Father was born November 23, 1877 and died January 5, 1956. My Mother was born August 25, 1899 and died December 17, 1988.

We lived in Richmond until 1930 when my parents bought a small farm in Charles City County and rented additional acreage. After several years, my Mother began to raise chickens for fresh eggs she sold locally as well as in Richmond and Williamsburg.

I graduated from Charles City High School (aka 'Harvard on the James') in 1943 and immediately went to work at the Courthouse where an office had been established by the Federal Government to handle the rationing of tires, gasoline and sugar. After the war, when those items appeared in sufficient quantity, the office was closed and I transferred to government work in Richmond and lived with my grandparents and aunt. In 1950 I bought my first car and returned home to Charles city to live but commuted to Richmond by bus for several years.

My Father was already a member of Bethany Presbyterian Church in Charles City County and that became the family house of worship. My Mother played

the reed organ there for many years until her health began to fail and I retired when I was 51 years old in 1977 in order to care for her.

I was privileged to serve as Deacon, Elder, Treasurer, Clerk of Session and Trustee of Bethany. I was Secretary of the Bethany Memorial Association and wrote an annual letter to the Association members.

Although I missed the joy and happiness of marriage and children, good friends helped me cope with the inevitable loneliness. I am especially grateful for the loving care of my cousins Karl (Laura) and David Rothenbach. In addition the Reverend Edson Pederson and his dear wife Sharon were special friends as were Alice and Bill Talbot, Hartwell and Martha Majors and the Tylers: George, Sherry and Rob. Thank you one and all for your friendship, love and kindness. I am also survived by cousins Reginald Brooks of Virginia Beach and Cecelia (Alfred) Fry.

In lieu of flowers, I ask you to take a friend for a drive on route 5 in the Fall, enjoying the beautiful countryside, followed by libations and conversation at one of the beautiful plantations.

Note: A celebration of Mr. Marston's life will be held at the Bethany Memorial Association's Homecoming in June 2021, held at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Charles City County.

# Tribute Wall

HW

“ Since Robert Lee Marston was Clerk of Session of Bethany Presbyterian Church, and I was Pastor of nearby Providence Forge Presbyterian Church, we were naturally thrown together in the work of the church. But for me, it was very happy being thrown together. The main thing I remember about Robert Lee is his interest in people and his capacity for friendship. He was naturally interested in all the members of Bethany Church, but he was also interested in all the members of their families, and even friends of their families. As Secretary of the Bethany Memorial Association, he composed an annual newsletter telling of the happenings of all those many friends. The letter was so very well written, and fun to read. Each year, Jill and I looked forward to receiving it and catching up on what had happened during the year.

He was a dear and generous friend. Each year he hosted me to the Charles City Ruritan Steak Fest. I was the driver, but the meal was on him. I always enjoyed our conversations en route, and it was a delight to walk around that event with him and see the multitude of friends he encountered. He taught me early on to bring my own sharp steak knife, since, as he said, the available plastic knives just 'didn't cut it.'

How very much in character that Robert Lee would write his own obituary! Written with the carefulness and precision that were his trademarks. It also possessed the comprehensiveness which family historians are bound to love!

*With Affection and Appreciation to this dear man.*

*Hal Wallof*

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Hal Wallof - May 07, 2020 at 10:26 AM

PA

“ I had the privilege of knowing Mr Robert Lee for many years. It was always impressive how dapperly he was dressed but more so his charming demeanor. I appreciated hearing his stories of old. We loved having him visit us at Mt Pleasant Baptist Church in Holdcroft. He is a part of a generation that will be severely missed.  
Thank you, Pam Lampkin-Webb

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pam - May 06, 2020 at 10:43 AM