



ANNOUNCING THE PASSING OF DR. ROBERT HUGHES

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF THE SCHOOL OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

I am very sad to report that Dr. Bob Hughes, head of our School from 1983 to 2000, passed away Saturday, July 16.

Services will be held at Strode in Stillwater at 10 am on Friday, July 29. You will be able to find more information here:

<https://strodefh.com/book-of-memories/4978922/Hughes-Robert/obituary.php>

The family plans to have the services live streamed for those who aren't available to attend.

In his memory, we have put together this brief special edition newsletter to recognize his contributions to the development of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering.



Thanks to Dr. Samir Ahmed for finding this photo.



ROBERT KING HUGHES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 1936-SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2022

Robert “Bob” Hughes of Stillwater, OK, passed away at age 86 on July 16, 2022. He was born July 8, 1936, in Memphis, TN to Charles Albert Hughes and Mary Elizabeth Robertson Hughes.

He graduated from North Augusta, SC High School in 1954; The Citadel in 1958 with a bachelor’s degree in engineering; Oklahoma State University where he earned his master’s and doctoral degrees in Civil Engineering in 1963 and 1973.

Upon leaving The Citadel, he entered the United States Army Corps of Engineers. His military education included Defense Intelligence School, Command and General Staff College and Army War College. He served in and applied his engineering knowledge and expertise in several countries and arenas across the globe while in the army including Germany, Indonesia, Greenland, Israel and Vietnam. Bob earned the Legion of Merit, 3 Bronze Stars, 5 Air Medals, 3 Army Commendation Medals and numerous others.

Robert truly enjoyed his time spent in the service of his country. He retired as a full Colonel in 1983 after serving as the Wilmington, NC District Engineer. Four days later, he became the Department Head of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering as a full professor at Oklahoma State University. He thoroughly enjoyed his time teaching, and his achievements and accolades were many. Bob’s fondest memories were of the

many students he taught through the years and watching them achieve their goals. Most of all he enjoyed the time spent with the concrete canoe teams, traveling all over the United States encouraging their numerous wins and innovations.

He retired, again, in 2001. Took up golf, enjoyed taking cruises, making new friends, and his daily coffee group with the ‘guys’. Family beach vacations were a highlight. One large house so all could be under one roof. Only thing he didn’t care for were the water balloon fights!!

Bob was predeceased by his parents, Charles and Mary Hughes; first wife, Margaret Louise Wright and granddaughter Kathryn Ann Hughes.

Surviving him is his wife of 49 years Glenna Bennett Hughes of Stillwater, OK; their three children Robert K. Hughes II (Laura) Newnan, GA, Kathi Hughes Tatum (Alex), Griffin, GA and Tonya Hughes Quiver (Dave), Stillwater, OK. Also, his brother Richard W., Hughes (Sue) Lincolnton, GA; 9 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

His memorial service will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, July 29, 2022 at the Strode Funeral Home Chapel, 610 S Duncan, Stillwater, OK with inurnment to follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

As noted in his obituary, his passion was the concrete canoe team. Here are photos of two of the teams:



2000 Concrete Canoe Team



2002 Concrete Canoe Team

Here's a copy of an old faculty listing:



Civil & Environmental Engineering

Dr. Robert K. Hughes, P.E.

Professor

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Dr. Hughes's major areas of interest include Contracts and Specifications; Contract and Environmental Law; Planning and Scheduling; Disputes Avoidance & Resolution; and Transportation Quality Control/Quality Assurance. He joined OSU in May 1983 when he retired from the U.S. Army in the rank of Colonel after 25 years of military service. He served as Head of the School of Civil & Environmental Engineering from May 1983 till September 2000. Bob Hughes received his B.S. from The Citadel in 1958; his M.S. from OSU in 1963; and his Ph.D. from OSU; in 1973, all in civil engineering.

In the area of contract management, he served as the District Engineer of the Wilmington District in North Carolina; as Area Engineer in Sondestrom, Greenland; and as Assistant Director of Military Construction in the Office, Chief of Engineers, in Washington, D.C. In research and development he served 3 years as Deputy Director of the Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg, Mississippi. He also served several tours as a combat engineer including two with the 101st Airborne Division - one in Vietnam and one at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He also served as a military attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Djakarta, Indonesia.

Professor Hughes is actively involved as an arbitrator with the American Arbitration Association and on disputes resolution panels for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. He is past president of the Oklahoma Section of ASCE and past state president of the Oklahoma Society of Professional Engineers. He holds several committee assignments at NSPE. His latest publications include articles on Engineering Ethics, Alternate Disputes Resolution, Infrastructure, Quality Assurance Specifications for Bituminous Concrete Pavement Construction, Tracking Labor Costs, and Measuring and Reporting Work Progress.

Thanks to Dr. Samir Ahmed for finding this photo.

On a personal note, Bob and I shared two other similarities in addition to my current job. We were both graduates of The Citadel, he in 1958 and me in 1984. It's strange that a small military college in South Carolina has provided 25 % of the CIVE School Heads to date. Like Bob, I was an active duty officer in the Army Corps of Engineers, but I only served eleven years and only made it to Captain. His military career was much more distinguished.

I would also like to thank Bob and Glenna for establishing the Robert & Glenna Hughes Scholarship Fund to support our students now and into the future. You may contact me if you'd like to make a contribution.

With my deepest sympathies,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norb Delatte". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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