



Dr. George E. Somers

February 9, 1931 - July 4, 2014

ADRIAN – Dr. George E. Somers, age 83 of Adrian, peacefully passed away Friday, July 4, 2014, at his home with his family gathered.

He was born February 9, 1931, in Chapin, Michigan, to Fay and Dorothy (Miller) Somers. George completed his undergraduate work at Taylor University and went on to earn a Master's Degree and PhD in Anthropology from Michigan State University.

On August 21, 1949, George married Joyce I. Criner in Chapin, Michigan, and they have celebrated almost 65 years together.

George was ordained as a Methodist minister while serving with his family in India. He retired from Adrian College where he was Professor Emeritus of Anthropology and Sociology. George was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Adrian. He was actively involved with Civitan of Lenawee, serving as Governor, and instrumental in building the Hope Community Center. George was the recipient of the Maple Leaf Award.

In addition to his wife, Joyce, he is survived by their sons, David (Judy) of Saucier, MS; Phillip (Robin) of Naperville, IL; Stephen of Adrian; and Mark (Jennie) of Dearborn; ten grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; a sister, Betty McQuiston of Elsie, MI; and cousins, Bob and Dolores.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Frances Jones.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, July 8, 2014, at 11:00 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Adrian with Reverends Christopher Brundage and Linda Farley officiating. Burial will be private. Visitation will take place on

Monday at Wagley Funeral Home from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Tuesday at the church from 10:00 a.m. until the service.

In lieu of flowers contributions in memory of George may be made to the Hope Community Center or the First United Methodist Church to benefit Indian Children's Scholarships. Online condolences and memories are welcome at www.WagleyFuneralHome.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
1245 West Maple Avenue
Adrian, MI

Service

JUL 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
1245 West Maple Avenue
Adrian, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. George E. Somers*

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *Dear Joyce,*

Tonight I just learned of George's passing and want you to know that even though years have passed you & George are an important part of my life. I was one of the participants in "A Journey of Understanding to India" in 1978. Just last month I did a program relating to how five weeks in India changed my life and opened my eyes.

Please accept my deepest sympathy at this time. After 63 years of marriage my husband Doug passed four years ago. A day never passes that he is not in my memories. I know you will miss him, but can be thankful knowing he's in heaven.

I had forgotten you had four sons and I had three sons, family are so important. Before the year is over I will have 10 great grand children.

May God provide you with comfort, strength and joy each day. You a George are special to me.

*With Christian love,
Billie Rench
2490 Clairmont Dr.
Owosso, MI 48867
dgblrench@juno.com*

Billie Rench - July 24, 2014 at 08:46 PM

DP

“ As the youngest of all the cousins, I did not get to enjoy the teenage fun at our family reunions, but I remember George taking a special interest in me and always willing to hear of my pre-teen interests. Knowing he and Joyce as missionaries always caused me to look up to him as someone very special. I suspect this set a tone for me to be interested in serving God in Africa as an educator after I retired from American education. I very much appreciated his sharing of thoughts with me as I made my way down that mission trail. My heart gets a very big smile as I imagine the fantastic reunion George and Connie along with my parents are having in heaven now.

Cousin Dan Perrine

Dan Perrine - July 09, 2014 at 12:44 PM

MA

“ Doc was a great professor and friend! I only hope that as an anthropologist and professor, that I am half as inspirational as he was to me. He inspired me to be a better person. He pushed me out of my comfort zone in volunteering with HOPE Center and in becoming a leader in Adrian Campus Civitan. He helped me understand that I could be an anthropologist and a Methodist. You will be missed!

Prayers for Joyce and the rest of the family.

Michelle Akers-Berg - July 09, 2014 at 06:20 AM

PS

“ I have such happy memories of Civitan and my time with Doc Somers while I was at Adrian (1991-1994). He was an all around gentleman with a heart of gold. My condolences to Joyce and the rest of his family. Godspeed, my good man.

Patti Smith - July 08, 2014 at 02:31 PM

MA

“ *Mr. & Mrs. Dolores Ancho purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. George E. Somers.*



Mr. & Mrs. Dolores Ancho - July 07, 2014 at 07:04 PM

MV

“ *Mary Vallad lit a candle in memory of Dr. George E. Somers*



mary vallad - July 07, 2014 at 06:00 PM

AM

“ *I will always remember Great Uncle George for his big smile with his white beard and white hair everytime I seen him! The first thing he would do would come up and give the best Hugs. He made me feel the best. Even though my grandpa wasnt around, he deffinatly took second place.
I love you uncle george.
Angela (Simmer) Muentener*

Angela Simmer Muentener - July 07, 2014 at 07:01 AM

YB

“ *Doc Somers was an inspiration, a teacher, a mentor and friend! I have so many fond memories of Adrian College: First and foremost, Doc sharing his adventures throughout India, which, ignited a passion in me to learn about other cultures and languages. I also remember buying fruit cakes every year from Doc, who could say no, and thinking " I don't even like fruit cake!"*
RIP, Doc Somers, and know that you were loved and respected by many!

Yvonne Benham-Wolf

Yvonne Benham-Wolf - July 07, 2014 at 12:52 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. George E. Somers.*



July 06, 2014 at 01:41 PM

BY

“ *Joyce and Family, Our love and prayers go out to you. Joyce, you and George hold a very special spot in our hearts. Thanks for being a part of us and our Diamondhead MS family and church.*
Bill & Karen Yordy

Bill & Karen Yordy - July 05, 2014 at 05:26 PM

MD

“ Life will not be the same without Civitan Doc Sommers. He was my mentor and co-conspirator in many District and International events. I so remember our days at Camp Civitan and also long range planning at my place in Beaverton - GO GREEN. I think we were the only two MSU fans but we were loud...oops, perhaps Carol Wolters was green also. He may be gone but I bet he's already recruiting for the Civitan Angel Club...go for it Doc, your numbers will make it tough for me but I am up to the challenge. RIP, we will celebrate your life at the Sept. District meeting. My love and prayers go out to Joyce and family. In Civitan, PG Marlene DeanDoran

Marlene Dean Doran - July 05, 2014 at 01:44 PM

MF

“ Joyce and Family, I just wanted to send my love to you and to let you know what a wonderful impact George had on my life and that of my family. You will always have a special place in my heart.
Marta Ford

Marta Ford - July 05, 2014 at 12:32 PM

JW

“ Bonnie and I are very sorry to learn of George's death. Our sympathy goes to Joyce and all his family members. He brought knowledge and an international perspective to the students, faculty, and curriculum of Adrian College that cannot be replaced. Jim Watson

James O. Watson - July 05, 2014 at 10:14 AM

GH

George was a great colleague, teacher, and respected administrator at Adrian College. I admired him very much.

Gordon Hammerle - July 06, 2014 at 09:40 PM