

Forrest Terence Rhodes



Forrest T. Rhodes was born on September 28, 1938, the only son of Walter F. and Olive Greathouse Rhodes, in Mattoon, Illinois, and grew up primarily in nearby Toledo. He graduated from Cumberland High School in Toledo, and accepted a congressional appointment to attend college at the United States Naval Academy.

He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1960, and upon his commissioning was assigned to the USS Cowell, a destroyer stationed in Long Beach, California, before being selected for submarine service. Following completion of the Navy's submarine and nuclear power schools, Forrest was assigned to the ballistic missile submarine USS James Madison, which was under construction in Newport News, Virginia. Upon commissioning, the James Madison became stationed in Charleston, South Carolina. In 1965, during his time on the James Madison, Forrest married the former Julia "Judy" Kent Waldo, of Holland, Virginia. Forrest completed his naval career in 1967 on the staff at the Navy's nuclear power school in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Forrest's civilian nuclear power career took him to Wisconsin in 1967 where he worked for Wisconsin Electric Power Company at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant in Two Rivers. He worked at Point Beach until 1980 when he and Judy moved to Burlington, Kansas, where Forrest oversaw the final stages of construction and the initial start-up of the Wolf Creek Nuclear Plant. He retired from Wolf Creek in 1995.

Forrest stayed busy during his retirement, focusing his free time on golf (because there's no curling in Kansas) and later became an avid home brewer. He was past President of Rock Creek Country Club, served on the Board of Trustees for Coffey Health System, and was a charter (and 20-year) member and past Chairman of the Coffey Health Foundation. Forrest also served two terms on the Burlington City Council.

Forrest is survived by his wife of 52 years, Judy; sons Forrest T. Rhodes, Jr., of El Dorado, and his wife Tiffany, and Chris Rhodes, of Topeka; and grandchildren Meghan and Nathan, each of El Dorado.

Jones Funeral Home