



## Dr Beaumont Roger Hagebak

June 17, 1936 - November 2, 2018

Dr. Beaumont R. Hagebak of Waleska, died of natural causes on Friday, November 2, 2018. He was 82 years of age. He wrote this obituary, so members of his family are blameless. (About this, at least.)

Born in Starbuck, Minnesota to Norwegian-American parents, he was a product of small town America. He spent most of his formative years in Blue Earth, Minnesota, where he graduated from high school in 1954. He still considers Blue Earth to be his home town. After two years with the U.S. Army, serving in the post-World War II Occupation Forces in Garmisch, Germany where he learned to stand at attention while not totally sober, he returned home to enroll at the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa. There he earned his Bachelor's degree in education, and Master's degree in school counseling. While still in college he met and married Lillian Kate Price of Grinnell, Iowa. The couple had three sons before dissolving their marriage in 1976.

Dr. Hagebak began his career as a high school guidance counselor in Reinbeck, Iowa in 1961. After two years of learning how very little he really knew about helping teenagers, he enrolled in the doctoral counseling psychology program at Arizona State University, Tempe and earned his doctorate there in 1967. In 1964, while working on his doctoral dissertation, he relocated his family to his home state of Minnesota, where he became an Associate Professor of Psychology and Director of the Psychological Services Center at Mankato State University. The Center prospered under his leadership, and that success led to his appointment as Dean of Students at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin in 1969. Those were difficult times in the academic world, and Dr. Hagebak was formally introduced to the student body by the then-President of the Student Government as a "racist, fascist pig". Three years later, before leaving the frozen north for Georgia, Dr. Hagebak served as best man in the wedding of the next President of that same Student Government. He saw that as progress.

In 1971, when he finally realized that Georgia was warmer than northern Wisconsin, Dr. Hagebak moved his family to LaGrange to become the first community mental health

center director in a thirteen county health district just south of Atlanta. After he drew in a couple of million Federal dollars for that cause, he was promoted to manage all public health, mental health, welfare and vocational rehabilitation services in the same area. That proved to be such a pleasant chore that he was promoted again, and took on 54 counties in western Georgia, directing all of their Department of Human Resources services. A 'chief' rather than an "Indian", Dr. Hagebak's job was eliminated in a purge of administrators ordered by then-Governor George Busbee. Then his father died, the divorce happened, and he started dating again. (Funny business, that.) Eventually, he met and married Judith Eve (Mertz) Hula, of Marietta, Georgia, and merged the two families. Judy had a son by a previous marriage. It was a great marriage but ended in a mutually agreed-upon divorce in 2017.

Dr. Hagebak then served as an Atlanta-based human services consultant for a year or so, before joining the U.S. Public Health Service, Atlanta Regional Office, as a Mental Health Program Consultant for NIMH in eight southern states. Eventually Ronald Reagan, then-President of the United States, shut down all of the Regional Offices of NIMH in the mistaken belief that mental diseases had been cured nationwide. Dr. Hagebak was permitted to stay on when all of his colleagues were fired, because he was a military veteran. Guilt-ridden, he wrote a couple of books during this period, since there was little else to do. Eventually, though, he moved up in the system and became the Deputy Regional Health Administrator for Region IV - Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. His most shining hour was when Hurricane Andrew hit Miami, and he was in charge of the federal public health response. It was quite exciting to watch the parade of Republican big shots marching through the disaster area. Not a pretty sight. Sort of like cleaning up after the circus goes through your hometown. "Grab the shovels, men, here comes another one!" Some of the finest people he ever knew were U.S. Public Health Services personnel!

He retired from the Federal government in 1999, moved to a log cabin in the north Georgia mountains, and did a little consulting on emergency preparedness until the Bush administration set up the Department of Homeland Security and made a royal mess of things. Then he took up watercolor painting, and began teaching psychology at North Georgia College and State University in Dahlonega. Some years later he and his wife moved to Roswell, Georgia, and he began to teach human growth and development in the Psychology Department at Kennesaw State University. He used his own personnel experiences in his teaching since he had lived, at the time, all of the stages of human growth except death and dying. He and his wife traveled a bit, too, visiting Norway, Sweden, Denmark, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Greece, Japan, China, England, and Scotland using the money he earned from teaching. He didn't really earn much from

watercoloring, but it kept him out of the bars and off the streets in his old age. So did his efforts to document the genealogy of his Hagebak and Mork families, which led to three books about them, and a smaller book about his mother, "Go-Go Gertie" (Gertrude Hagebak).

In 2011 Dr. Hagebak (then age 75) and his wife moved to Roseville, California to watch their two-year-old granddaughter grow up and to see and do new and interesting things in a totally different part of the country. It was hard leaving family and friends behind in Georgia, but exciting to deal with such a major change so late in life. He loved living in California, and with his wife toured the western coastal area, created a backyard nature preserve, served on the steering committee of the community wine tasting club, and met wonderful new friends (most, but not all, Democrats). Together, he and Judy traveled to Europe several times. They particularly loved river cruises. In 2016, as they were nearing their 40th wedding anniversary, he and Judy decided, for a variety of reasons to divorce. Their divorce was final in 2017, and he moved back East to be closer to his own family. It was a tough time for both of them. Eventually, at age 80, he settled in an old log cabin in the Lake Arrowhead Community near Waleska, Georgia, in the foothills of the North Georgia mountains.

Dr. Hagebak was a proud member of the American Humanist Society, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the Wilderness Society and several other environmental organizations, the Democratic National Committee, and other progressive groups. He thoroughly enjoyed being well left of center, religiously and politically, and loved to yell at Republicans and evangelical Christians appearing on television. He also yelled at people who drove too slowly in the left lane. Often they were the same people.

Dr. Hagebak, or "Ace" as he was called throughout his lifetime because of an unfortunate incident in eighth grade involving a huge paper airplane in study hall, is survived by his sons Beaumont William, Christen Daane, Haakon Price; their delightful spouses, five beautiful and bright granddaughters, and a fine set of great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. C. Beaumont H. Hagebak and Gertrude E. (Mork) Hagebak, and by his kid sister, Corinne A. (Hagebak) Grussing.

A memorial program (certainly not a religious service) is being planned for Friday, November 16th at 11:30a.m., at the Lake Arrowhead Club House, complete with hors d'oeuvres, a bit of wine, and absolutely no piano music. He had to suffer through piano lessons in the third grade, and hated them and the piano ever since!

Memorial contributions may be made to any activist environmental organization that seeks

to preserve endangered wildlife, the shrinking wilderness areas in the United States, or to expand urban green space at the expense of urban and suburban developers. As an alternative, people can also donate memorial funds to Vesterheim, the Norwegian-American folk museum in Decorah, Iowa; or to the Lac qui Parle County Historical Museum in Madison, Minnesota where artifacts that once belonged to members of Dr. Hagebak's pioneer family are displayed. (Look up the addresses on the internet, OK?)

# Cemetery

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## Blue Earth Cemetery

Blue Earth, MN,

# Events

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**NOV** **Memorial Service** 11:30AM

**16**

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Lake Arrowhead Club House  
GA, US

# Comments

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“ 2 files added to the album Beaumont and family



Gwendolyn - November 12, 2018 at 06:11 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Floie M Vane - November 08, 2018 at 10:17 PM

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“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Floie M Vane - November 08, 2018 at 10:10 PM

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“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Floie M Vane - November 08, 2018 at 10:07 PM

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“ Your stories, not yet told will be missed. The stories you shared will live on forever. As will, the fondest memories of our times spent with you, Papa Ace. Heartbroken our time was so limited. Blessed for the moments shared. Forever in our hearts. Until We meet again....  
Joey & Kathy Satterfield

Joey & Kathy Satterfield - November 06, 2018 at 03:45 AM

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“ Sherry Garland lit a candle in memory of Dr Beaumont Roger Hagebak



Sherry Garland - November 05, 2018 at 11:01 AM

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“ I want to thank God for bringing me a special friend Mr. Ace. I enjoy going and visiting him because he has so many awesome stories that he tells and writes about. In one of my visits I turned the toilet tissue around cause the air vents was rolling it off into the floor. Then the next visit he told me that I was very smart business lady but he confused me so I asked how come. Ace told me that he wrote a short story about me. He told me remember the last time you were here,I wrote about you changing the toilet tissue around and now it doesn't roll into the floor that means that your a smart lady knowing what to do with the littlest task. I was so excited because no one is ever wrote about me it was so funny that he made me a copy of it and I still have the story. I would always ask him where is your pet cat and he said that she's hiding under the TV but sometimes while he is reading his book or writing his story she would sneak under his bed and when I go start changing his bed bend down to fix sheet out by surprise miss cat would come running out and scares me and I would scream and Ace would tell me that she's done it again . Ha Ha !  
I wish others could have meet Ace cause he had a heart of gold and he was one special man. As he sit at home he became enthused with all of his animal friends that came around to visit him. He told me that all his little friend was going to be his Christmas card and I was getting one. He gave me my card last Christmas and I loved it ,and I told him he did a great job making his own card. I know he loved knomes cause he had them all over his cards and house.  
Ace told me last month he had his new Christmas cards for this year and I'll get one the mail. I was so excited to see what he had come up with. So my next visit was Tuesday and I told him I've been drawing and I showed him my drawing and told him I was wanting to make one of my drawing into my Christmas card and Ace told me that would be great and he made me fill like I'm good enough to do that. I know that

my dear friend Mr. Ace will be with us always in heart and spirit as we go back and remember all his memories and stories that he shared with us know when you have this feeling someones with us, you see a red bird,or butterflies circle around, and you have a warm feeling in your heart that your not alone it is our sweet Mr. Ace .  
Mr. Beaumont Hagebak (Ace) my dear sweet friend you will always hold a special place in my heart. Thanks God for the time with my dear friend.  
Your friend,  
Sherry Garland

**sherry garland** - November 05, 2018 at 10:43 AM

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“ Sherry Garland lit a candle in memory of Dr Beaumont Roger Hagebak



**Sherry Garland** - November 05, 2018 at 10:08 AM

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“ To have a man who touched his neighbors and new friends in the short time we knew him spoke volumes of his character and life. He will be missed!

Warren Maples

**Warren Maples** - November 04, 2018 at 08:28 AM

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“ Warren Maples lit a candle in memory of Dr Beaumont Roger Hagebak



**Warren Maples** - November 04, 2018 at 08:24 AM