



Lavon Rasco

February 11, 2009

RASCO Lavon Rasco passed away February 11 in Columbus, Ohio, following a stroke. He was born in Polkville, Mississippi, on July 13, 1927. After serving in the US Navy toward the end of World War II he attended the University of Mississippi, where he met his future wife, Kay Frances Dilworth, and earned a BA and MA in English Literature. He then attended the prestigious Iowa Writers' Workshop and married. He and his wife obtained their Ph.D.'s in English Literature at Northwestern University. After teaching at Western Illinois University for four years he joined the faculty of De Paul University and taught there until 1990, interspersed with two years in Cairo, Egypt, where he and Kay taught at the American University in Cairo 1969-71. They returned to Cairo 1977-8 when he received a Fulbright Fellowship and taught at Ain Shams University. Concurrent with his career at De Paul, he wrote and edited text books for Coyne Technical Institute in Chicago, an outlet for his amazingly diverse talents. In 1989 he and Kay bought Sarah Bustle Antiques in Evanston and operated it until 2002. Partly due to Lavon's exquisite refinishing of fine lighting and antiques, the store won the Readers' Choice Award for best antique store in North Shore Magazine. After the death of his beloved wife of 53 years in 2004 Professor Rasco moved to Columbus, Ohio, where he resumed writing short stories. He began life with hard farm work during the Great Depression, fulfilled himself professionally, often sacrificed personally for his family, and traveled the world as he had dreamed of doing as a child behind a mule-drawn plow. He is survived by daughters Francine

Rasco (Chip Elliott) of Columbus, Ohio, and Karen Rasco (David Wilhelm) of Evanston; son Manfred Ray, Sr. of Skokie; grandson Manfred Ray, Jr. (Marcella Bicoff) of Highland Park; granddaughter Jennifer Ray (Becca Cragin) of Toledo, Ohio; and grandchildren Isabella and Max Ray and Max Cragin. Arrangements by RUTHERFORD-CORBIN FUNERAL HOME, Worthington, Ohio. Condolences and memories may be sent to: www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Lavon Rasco*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *actually, I did not know your father, but we are looking for relatives that maybe connected to us. my father is from kentucky orginally, he is decased however, but his father named gordon bryon rascoe sr. from christian county kentucky, please advise, big name associated in ky was bobby bryon rascoe the basketball player our dec goes back to nc, ala,england please advise, and sorry for yur loss*

josi rascoe meyer - April 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ms. Janie said to let you all know that she was sorry to hear about Mr. Lavon's death. I talked with her this past Sunday (March 15th) at church and she did not see about his death in the local paper. Her husband passed away about 2 months ago. She also told me that she tried to call your Dad during Christmas and didn't ever reach him. May the Lord bless and keep you all.*

Janie Story Lancaster (posted by Debbie Ozbirn) - March 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

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“ Marvin, Nathan and I wanted you to know that we were sorry to read about your Dad's death. Marvin's parents were Alton and Dorothy Mia (Story) Ozbirn. They were very close to your Dad and Mom. When they came to Pisgah, they always went and ate together. Marvin and I came to Chicago several years ago and Mr. Lavon came and picked us up at our hotel and took us to the antique store and then Ms Kay Frances took us to the Fields Musuem and then they took us to their home. Marvin was driving a chartered bus for a group from Booneville so we had no way to get around except the bus. Your Mother had made us promise to call when we had free time so we did. We will always treasure that time with them. While we were there, they gave out a tornado warning for that area; your Dad amd Mother said that was the first time they knew of that happening. We are still getting to enjoy the flowers they set out here at their home in Pisgah. We were so sorry when that home burned. When they started to leave MS for the last time, your Dad and Mother left us a box of assorted what-nots from their home here. We will treasure them always. Your Dad left them on our front porch and didn't ring our door bell; I called them several days later when they got back to IL and fussed at your Mother for not letting us know they had stopped by. She said she just didn't want to have to say "good-bye". I hope I haven't bored you too bad. I wanted your family to know that we will never forget them and their friendship with us and especially their friendship over the years with Marvin's parents. Marvin's Dad died in 2006 and his Mother died in 2002. Take care and God bless each of you.

Marvin, Debbie and Nathan Ozbirn - March 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM