



## Robert D. Touse

July 22, 1926 - February 15, 2024

Robert D. Touse, beloved father, grandfather, uncle, and professor, was welcomed into Heaven on February 15, 2024. Born in his Grandmother's parlor in Camden, Michigan, in 1926, Bob grew up in Jackson. A graduate of Michigan State University in Forestry, Bob worked in industry in Gainesville, Florida, and Brewton, Alabama. He joined Ohio State in 1962 to develop the Forest Industries Program in the School of Natural Resources. He was beloved by many students whose careers shaped the industry and who survived his 8am classes. Bob continued to hear from numerous students about his impact on their careers up until the week of his passing at nearly 98. Bob's two canoe paddles are packed with graduate's signatures and reside at a forest industries professional organization. He often said, it's better to be remembered for what you believed in than what you did, and it was the hand of the Lord, not him.

Bob was greeted in Heaven by his wife of 67 years, Jane Wagner Touse, and granddaughter Mary Therese Bastaja. He joined his children Susan, Ann, and Paul Touse, sister and brother Jane and Phil Touse, cousin Philip Keller Sr., and numerous other friends and family. Bob is survived by twin daughters Sue Bastaja and Sara Shunkwiler, son-in-law Jeff Shunkwiler, grandsons and their wives Andrew Shunkwiler and Susan Nembhard, Matthew and Emily Shunkwiler, and Robert Bastaja; niece Terri Touse Brafford and daughter Morgann; brother-in-law Albert and Nancy Wagner, nieces Joy Wagner

Prettyman and Joan Wagner Kinghorn and their families, and cousin Betty Keller and family.

Donations in Bob's memory can be made to the Robert D. Touse and William F. Cowen, Jr. Endowment Fund in the School of Environment and Natural Resources at The Ohio State University to support a future Forestry student. You can donate at The Ohio State University Foundation, PO Box 710811, Columbus, OH 43271 or give online at <https://www.giveto.osu.edu> and search the Fund #667360. You can connect with Sara (Touse) Shunkwiler through LinkedIn for more information.

Thank you for your many letters with stories of Dad's antics in the classroom and his impact on your careers!! Sara followed in his footsteps and shifted from engineer working in industry to STEM professor and engineering course designer at Johns Hopkins University. Educators may never know the impact that we make on someone's life or an industry. But sometimes we are blessed to find out in our own lifetime. No services are planned, because Bob's students, friends, and family told him how much he meant to us while he was alive.

# Tribute Wall

JB

“ I send my sincere condolences to Professor Touse's family. I was a student of his forest industries curriculum in the late seventies. I really liked his down to earth real world perspectives and his humor. I will never forget what he told us everyday, he would say, the dollar determines everything. He was always willing to help you in anyway he could, he was a good mentor and a good man. I didn't know of his passing until today as I was going through some old books and magazines I came across an article he wrote in Ohio Woodlands in 1979 about the forest industries program he came to develop at OSU. I had to then look him up and that is how I found out about his passing.

Jeffrey Bartels 80'

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**Jeff Bartels** - February 19, 2025 at 02:02 PM

GC

“ I'm sorry to hear about your father passing. He was great person and great teacher and mentor.

I had Bob in Forest Industues and loved every minute with him.

My sincere condolences

Gary Condry OSU '72

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**Gary Condry** - November 12, 2024 at 06:46 PM

GM

“ He was a fine teacher of forestry.

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**Gordon Mitchell** - February 21, 2024 at 07:21 AM

KK

“ Katalin K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert D. Touse.

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**Katalin K.** - February 20, 2024 at 05:07 PM