



Charles Raymond Halstead

November 30, 1924 - October 9, 2012

Dr. Charles R. Halstead, 87, of Chestertown, MD, died at his home on October 9, 2012. Born in Flushing, NY, he was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wright Halstead and Lucille Holiff Halstead.

Dr. Halstead received his primary and secondary education in the public schools of New York State, during which time he was called "Charles Raymond." He was honorably discharged after serving in the United States Navy during World War II as an enlisted man and as an aviation cadet.

For more than four decades, Dr. Halstead was a parishioner at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Chestertown. He served there as chaliceist, lector, vestryman, usher, teller, and Delegate to Diocesan Convention. In 1988, he traveled to Brazil representing the regional diocese of the Episcopal Church, working as part of a team seeking to foster a Companion Diocese relationship with a diocese of the Episcopal Church in Brazil.

Dr. Halstead was very actively involved in the goodworks of local eleemosynary, cultural, and civic institutions and organizations, especially after his retirement from full-time teaching. He served on the boards of the Kent County Historical Society, the Kent County Historical Trust, the Kent Association of Riding Therapy (KART), the Chestertown Cotillion, the Church Hill Theatre, and the Chestertown Gourmet Club. He was also Vice-President of the Chester Harbor Community Association, a founding member of the

Friends of the Miller Library at Washington College, and a steady supporter of the Kent County Friends of Chamber Music.

Dr. Halstead received a Bachelor's Degree in sociology, magna cum laude, from Siena College in Loudonville, New York. Dr. Halstead pursued graduate studies at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, receiving a Master Degree in International Relations from the Woodrow Wilson School of Foreign Affairs, and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in European History from the Corcoran School of History. Dr. Halstead's area of expertise in his graduate studies was international diplomatic relations of Spain and Portugal from the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War through the formation of the United Nations after World War II.

Through his life, Dr. Halstead achieved expertise in a number of other areas of history, including medieval history, Roman Britain, and the Russo-German Theatre of World War II. His personal library in those and other areas, including a very specialized library on New England and Maritime Canadian whales and whaling dating back 300 years, was of world class caliber and numbered several thousand volumes. Certain of those collections have been bequeathed to Siena College and the University of Virginia.

Dr. Halstead was also a keen philatelist. His collection of stamps, covers, and postal stationery of the Falkland Islands was auctioned some years ago in London, England. Dr. Halstead compiled an extensive collection of watercolor and oil paintings. That collection was of scenes of the Chesapeake Bay region and other local subjects by well known local and regional artists. Dr. Halstead was an enthusiastic fisherman and sailor. He fished for tarpon in Belize, giant Bluefin Tuna in Newfoundland, Canada, and caught a prize-winning codfish near Tromso, Norway, adjacent to the Arctic Circle. He was also the tallest member of the Hartly, Delaware, Ballroom Dancing Club. He spoke Spanish, French, and German and was a member of the French and German clubs that

conveyed at the Chester River Yacht and Country Club. Colleagues described Dr. Halstead as a true Renaissance Man. Dr. Halstead also correctly described himself and prided himself as being a Renaissance Man.

Dr. Halstead retired from Washington College in 1988, after a 33 year teaching career and 25 years at that institution. His history courses included Ancient and Medieval History; the Renaissance and Reformation; Modern Europe, specializing in Iberia; and the History of the British Isles, specializing in Tutor England. After retirement, Dr. Halstead taught at the Academy of Lifelong Learning and Pace Program at Washington College. In addition, he taught numerous classes at Chesapeake College in the Institute for Adult Education.

A Colleague at Washington College related an instance of seeing Dr. Halstead in the faculty lounge frantically preparing for an upcoming lecture. When questioned about why he was putting such effort into a lecture he had given dozens of times, Dr. Halstead told the subsequently embarrassed new professor that each school year he updated his lectures with recent innovative views, reexamination of original sources, and new research. He mentioned that he maintained notes from year to year of the areas of each of his classes that the students liked, disliked, and with which they had difficulty, together with what worked in class and what did not. Finally, he indicated he made notes of how he should improve his lectures the next time he taught the class. He was described as a teaching role model for other faculty. Dr. Halstead correctly described himself and prided himself on being a teacher.

Dr. Halsted was also a published scholarly author. The area of research for which he was noted was Twentieth Century Iberian international and diplomatic relations during World War II. Dr. Halstead's work in this area involved research in foreign and domestic archives, which was frequently

supported by endowments and grants from academic and scholarly foundations. Not surprisingly, he traveled frequently and extensively throughout Europe. His articles about Spanish and Portuguese diplomacy during that period focused on the diplomatic personnel serving in Madrid. Dr. Halstead was especially proud of his corpus of academic publications produced by original and innovative research of the diplomatic relations between Spain and Portugal during Spanish Civil War and World War II. Those articles reached an appreciative international audience. That work was internationally regarded as ground-breaking and seminal.

Dr. Halstead wrote occasional pieces for the Kent County News concerning the European origins of local names and institutions. As a gifted historian, he was often asked to function as a judge for oratorical and essay contests sponsored by community civic organizations, including the American Legion and the Daughters of the American Revolution. As a speaker, he addressed various other community groups about historical, international, and travel topics, including the Rotarians, the Questers, the Women's League of Washington College, the Lambert Wickes Society, the Historical Society of Kent County, and the Chestertown Library. Dr. Halstead correctly described himself and prided himself on being a scholar.

The Washington College and Chestertown community provided recollections of Dr. Halstead's formal but relaxed charm. His Victorian form of speech was grammatically correct and followed the etiquette of that period, while putting at ease any individual with whom he was conversing. Dr. Halstead was a fixture on the Washington College campus in his three piece suit, even in the 1970's when some fellow professors were torn jeans and a flannel shirt. It was noted by a colleague that Dr. Halstead was the only person to visit the Mayan ruins at Tikal, Guatemala, while wearing a white shirt and tie. Every colleague and friend who provided a remembrance described Dr. Halstead as a consummate gentleman. While proud of his gentility, Dr. Halstead was too much of a gentleman to describe himself as such.

Dr. Halstead was predeceased by a brother, Phillip Halstead of Bolder, CO. He is survived by a son, Clifford Sidney Halstead; daughter-in-law, Angela Halstead; and two grandchildren, Clifford Sidney Halstead, Jr., and Sarah Marie Halstead, all of Spartanburg, SC; and a sister-in-law, Ms. Sheila Halstead, and niece, Megan Jean Richardson, both of Littleton, CO.

A memorial service will be held at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Chestertown, MD at 3 p.m., Saturday, October 20, 2012. Private interment will be at Old Saint Paul's Episcopal Church.

In lieu of flowers, it is suggested that contributions be made to the Kent and Queen Anne's or Church Hill Rescue Squads. Those who wish may contribute to the Charles R. Halstead Memorial History Graduation Award Fund at Washington College, in care of David C. Wright, Esquire, 100 Church Alley, Chestertown, Maryland, 21620.

Cemetery Details

St. Pauls Cemetery (Kent County)

7600 Sandy Bottom Road
Chestertown, MD

Previous Events

Service

OCT **20**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
101 N. Cross St.
Chestertown, MD

Tribute Wall



“ Charles Raymond Halstead

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ Charles Raymond Halstead

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ Charles Raymond Halstead

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ Sharon VanZant lit a candle in memory of Charles Raymond Halstead



Sharon VanZant - October 16, 2012 at 11:33 PM



Mr. / Dr. Halstead, I was your nurse for 13 yrs at Dr. Benjamins office and we have shared many special moments together...many laughs and many hugs to my special Giant as I used to call you sir..!! I will always cherish them...May you have great peace with our good Lord above as you sit beside him and look down on us as we as humans miss you being here on earth with us .. but knowing that you are looking down on us above brings us a smile to our faces that love you ..I will always love you and our times that we have shared...until we meet again sir ..my love goes with you and God will take take of you ! Love you ...Sharon..xoxo

Sharon VanZant - October 16, 2012 at 11:47 PM