

# BELVE-NEWS

## SPECIAL EDITION

### CROSSED THE BAR

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#### **J. Houston Witherspoon**

Secure in the knowledge that he is now in a better place, we write of the passing of J. Houston Witherspoon. A patriarch of the Belvedere, Houston was synonymous with the Association. Everyone who knows of the Belvedere has a story of him to tell. We will miss his prompt noon arrivals in the latest Cadillac, his stories of travels and of course, the chocolate gold pieces. Everyone has a story to tell because he took time to talk to everyone and in doing so he broadened our day and our horizons.

As we approach the Holiday season, we remember Mr. Witherspoon through his generosity with the sounds of the hand bells at the First Congregational Church in Charlevoix.

An era has passed but a new one begins within all those who he touched. All of our Belvedere family pass on our thoughts and prayers to the Witherspoon family.

The family passes on the following:

J. Houston Witherspoon died November 21, 2001 in Asheville, North Carolina. He was 100 years of age and would have been 101 on December 8, 2001. He had the singular privilege of having lived in three centuries. He retired from the insurance business in 1950.

He was a member of the Belvedere Club where he had his summer home and the Belvedere Golf Club of Charlevoix, Michigan. From his early years he was an avid tennis player and an intense competitor. He continued to play tennis well into his 90's. He also was a skillful sailor, former commodore of the Belvedere Yacht Club, and a keen golfer.

He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and for many years made it his practice to attend the church's annual General Assembly. He was a generous benefactor of Warren Wilson College, Princeton Theological Seminary, and the Center for Theological Inquiry.

He was a noted world traveler on cruise ships. He took such a cruise virtually every year beginning in 1960, continuing through 2000. He loved to tell stories and show pictures of his travels. He became very adept at deck sports and won many prizes aboard such ships as the *Rotterdam* of the Holland America Line and the *Queen Elizabeth II* of the Cunard Line. He also traveled on ships of the Swedish American Line.

Surviving are his brother, William Witherspoon of St. Louis, Missouri, nephew James T. Witherspoon of St. Louis, Missouri, and nieces Jane T. Witherspoon of Toronto, Ontario, and Elizabeth W. McElroy of Falls Church, Virginia.

Burial will be private in Bellefontaine Cemetery and a memorial service will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Saturday, December 8 at 11:00 A.M.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Westminster Presbyterian Church, 5300 Delmar Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63112, Warren Wilson College, P.O. Box 9000, Asheville, North Carolina 28815, Princeton Theological Seminary, P.O. Box 552, Princeton, New Jersey 08542 or the Center of Theological Inquiry, 50 Stockton Street, Princeton, New Jersey 08540.