

Randolph Wyatt "Dan" Webster, Jr., only child of Dr. Randolph Wyatt (1900-1995) and Esther (Dawson) (1900-1951) Webster, was born 24 May 1933, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan. He graduated from East Lansing High School, East Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan in 1951 as class president and with honors. During his senior high year Dan's mother died of a heart attack. Dan's father later married again.

*Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Wednesday 8 June 1956*



**RANDOLPH WEBSTER, Jr.**

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### **MADE HIS MARK AT M.S.C.**

A 1951 honor graduate of East Lansing high school, Randolph W. Webster, Jr., of 155 Oakland st., was graduated from Michigan State college Sunday with high scholastic and leadership honors.

His college grade average of A-minus rated the East Lansing youth one of the top scholars in the M.S.C. centennial graduating class of 1,680.

Kappa Delta Pi, national honorary fraternity for students majoring in education, named Webster as the year's outstanding senior. He was also

distinguished by social fraternity Theta Chi as the outstanding member of the campus organization.

In four years at Michigan State, the East Lansingite was associated with many activities and served in various official capacities. He was a freshman class vice-president, freshman-sophomore council president, sophomore class president, chief justice of the all judiciary branch of student government, president of Blue Key, member of Green Helmet, vice-president of Excalibur, senior class vice-president, a cadet lieutenant colonel and member of numerous other organizations and honorary groups.

He was commissioned second lieutenant in the air corps at recent ceremonies and was honored as a distinguished military graduate.

At East Lansing high he was president of the 1951 graduating class and state wrestling champion in his weight division the same year.

The youth is the son of Prof. Randolph W. Webster, of the Michigan State department of health, physical education and recreation.

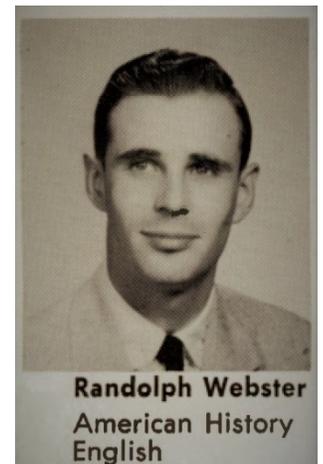
Dan married his high school sweetheart, Diana Lou "Di" Clanahan on 1 January 1955, East Lansing.

*Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Sunday 4 June 1955*

Randolph Webster, Jr., known as Dan, and his wife, Dianna (*misspelled*) Clanahan Webster, plan to spend the summer working at a Y.M.C.A. camp at Irons. Then this fall, Dan, who majored in history education, will either go into the air force or work on his master's degree at State. Dan received his commission as a second lieutenant in the air force reserves Tuesday.

### **Dan taught American History and English at Okemos High School**

**in 1957-1958.** He then went on active duty in the US Air Force and was stationed in Japan. Upon return to the states, Dan became an Air Force reservist, continued on with teaching and obtained a master's degree and doctorate from MSU. In 1972 he went to Libertyville, Lake County, Illinois and began working at the College of Lake County in Grayslake. Dr. Webster became Dean of Students and later vice-president at the college. He also carried the USAF rank of Lieutenant Colonel.



Dan and Di celebrated 59 years of marriage and 5 children together. Dan died 17 November 2014, Libertyville. He was interred Lakeside Cemetery, Libertyville.

*Chicago Tribune (Chicago, Illinois) Tuesday 25 November 2014*

## **FORMER COLLEGE VICE PRESIDENT WAS 'STUDENT ADVOCATE'**

When Dan Webster joined the College of Lake County in Grayslake its vice president of student affairs, he brought a wealth of experience from some turbulent years at Michigan State University.

Mr. Webster oversaw many of Michigan State's most popular events and activities during the late 1960's and early 70's. At the height of the Vietnam War, he arranged for controversial war activists Muhammad Ali and Jane Fonda to speak with students.

He also brought a number of big-name bands to perform on campus, groups like the Grateful Dead, Sly and the Family Stone and Jefferson Airplane.

"I don't know how he did it, but he pulled in some of the best talent from that era," his son Randy said. "As a kid I remember standing next to him at a concert and watching Stevie Wonder perform on his 21st birthday. It was incredible."

Mr. Webster also stood between students and the National Guard during a student protest at Michigan State, calling for freedom of speech which working toward a peaceful resolution.

"He was a social activist at heart whose career led him to become a student advocate," his son said.

Mr. Webster, 81, who retired as dean of students at the College of Lake County in 1997, died of natural causes Monday, Nov. 17, at Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville, his family said.

"Dan was all about the students - their needs, their challenges, what he could do to help them," said Bob Hamilton, a retired chemistry professor at the College of Lake County. "Whether it was working toward better counseling services or more academic programs and student activities, his goal was to provide the best college experience possible."

In addition to his student responsibilities, Mr. Webster also provided leadership training for fellow administrators, conducting workshops at his school and at other colleges throughout the state.

"He was approachable and knowledgeable, someone who could talk with anyone about anything, and the kids all loved him," Hamilton said. "He kept on top of things because he had an open-door policy that encouraged people to say what was on their minds."

Born in Ann Arbor, Mich., Mr. Webster spent part of his childhood in West Virginia before moving with his family to East Lansing, where his father, who taught physical education, was on the faculty at Michigan State.

He earned a bachelor's degree in education from Michigan State in 1955. That same year he joined the Air Force and was assigned for two years to a base in Kyushu, Japan. He continued on in the reserves as a recruiter for the Air Force Academy in Colorado for 23 years.

**RANDOLPH 'DAN' WEBSTER JR. 1933-2014**

## Former college vice president was 'student advocate'

BY JOAN GIANGRASSE KATES | Special to the Tribune

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FAMILY PHOTO

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From 1957 to 1968, Mr. Webster taught American history at high schools in Okemos and Livonia, Mich., and during that time received a master's degree in

education from Michigan State.

From 1968 to 1972, he worked as the assistant director of student activities at Michigan State while earning a doctorate in education.

He left to become vice president of student services at the College of Lake County, founded in 1968, and later was its dean of students.

"He loved his work and being around students," said daughter Marian Hawkins. "It was something he was meant to do."

Other survivors include his wife of 59 years, Diana; two sons, Trent and Brad; a daughter, Ruth Burlini; a brother, Dean Stoppel; a sister, Carol Van Patten; and 16 grandchildren.

Services were held.

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*Published in Chicago Suburban Daily Herald from Nov. 19 to Nov. 20, 2014*

Randolph W. "Dan" Webster Jr., 81, passed away on Monday, Nov. 17, 2014 at Advocate Condell Medical Center. He was born May 24, 1933 in Ann Arbor, MI. After teaching high school English, History and Drivers Ed, Dan obtained his doctorate in Administrative Education from Michigan State University and was the Assistant Director of Student Services. Among his many responsibilities was bringing rock groups to MSU for concerts. His love of music made him perfect for that assignment. Dan moved his family from Michigan to Libertyville in 1972. He became the Dean of Students at the College of Lake County where faculty, staff and students were all



touched by his integrity, acceptance, collaboration, social activism and, above all, his gentle manner. Dan was a Lt. Colonel in the US Air Force, serving as Base Commander in Kyushu, Japan. He retired after 25 years of combined active and reserve duty. He was a member of the United Methodist Church in Libertyville for 43 years, where he served as Chairman of the Pastor-Parish Committee for multiple terms. His greatest accomplishment and ultimate joy was his family. Whether coaching his children or enjoying the grandkids, he will be remembered for the love that he always expressed. Surviving are his high school sweetheart Diana, who he married in 1955; Children, Randy (Kelly)

Webster, Marian (Jeff) Hawkins, Trent (Mimi) Webster, Ruth (Tim) Burlini and Brad Webster; 16 grandchildren; sister, Carol (Ken) Van Patten and brother, Dean (the late Gail) Stoppel. Visitation will be from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday at the Burnett-Dane Funeral Home Ltd., 120 W. Park Ave. (Route 176, one block west of Milwaukee Ave.), Libertyville. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, Nov. 21, 2014 at the United Methodist Church, 429 Brainerd Ave. Libertyville. Interment will follow at Lakeside Cemetery.