

## WITH DEEP SORROW

Obituary submissions are only accepted from family members. We will accept online Funeral obituaries or newspaper obituaries if family submissions are not received by the *Canal Record* deadlines. Obituary pictures may be emailed to [record@pancanalsociety.org](mailto:record@pancanalsociety.org) or mailed to the Panama Canal Society office. Emailed pictures must be submitted in a jpeg or tif format in 300 DPI or higher.



**Emily J. Bliss**, age 98, passed away Mon., Sept. 13, 2021, at The Residence at Oak Grove in Thomasville, Georgia. On May 21, 1923, Emily was born in Luverne, Ala., to Andrew Orestes and Martha Matilda Pope Jackson. The family moved to Florida, where she attended Miami Senior High School and met her future husband, Curtis Bliss.

They married after the end of WWII, at which time both Emily and Curtis attended and graduated from the University of Miami. Emily later continued her education and obtained her Masters' degree at Rollins College in Winter Park.

She loved to travel throughout the United States and lived in the Panama Canal Zone before moving permanently to Florida. Emily enjoyed a long teaching career and spending time with family and friends. She obtained her pilot's license and was a proud member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, the Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonial Dames of the Seventeenth Century, and Jamestowne Society. Emily was an accomplished cellist and played in the Brevard Symphony with her husband, who played the French Horn. Emily also played the organ at Rockledge Presbyterian Church, where she was an active member for many years. After a wonderful life in Florida, she moved to Thomasville, Ga., in 2016 to be near her sister, Phyllis Jones, and her family. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society. Emily donated many family historical items to the Panama Canal Museum Collection at the University of Florida.

Emily is preceded in death by her husband, Curtis H. Bliss, parents, Andrew and Martha Jackson, sister Mary Elizabeth Wilson, and brothers, Andrew Ores Jackson Jr., and William Stuart Jackson. She is survived by sisters Sarah Janice James and Martha Phyllis Jones and their extended families. She and her husband never had children of their own, but she was a cherished aunt to many nieces and nephews. She will be greatly missed.



**James (Wes) Wesley Braswell** was born on February 20, 1949, in Wilmington, N.C. He passed away on September 23, 2021 after a long battle with COPD.

Wes was an avid hunter and fisherman and loved flying! He was well-known in Southport, N.C. for his many efforts to feed the shut-ins and less fortunate folks. He was famous for giving away clothes, coats, and whatever he felt another person needed. Wes graduated from Balboa High School in 1967 and immediately signed up for duty with the Navy at the tender age of 17. He



did three tours of duty to Vietnam on the aircraft carrier, *Bonn Homme Richard*, in armament and ordinance. Earning the Bronze Star for pitching a live bomb over deck to save the ship and fellow seamen. This was only recently brought to his attention, nearly 50 years after the fact. He was very proud of this recognition.

He lived in the great town of Curundu. During his time in Panama he loved fishing off the causeway, and of course, on the ocean. Wes frequently spoke of all his friends and escapades with such clarity and detail, always with a big grin. He loved people, young and old!

Wes is survived by his daughter, Rebecca Braswell (Jerad); granddaughter, Rilyn; sister, Helen Braswell; brother, Ken Braswell (Laura); nephews, Jon Christian Lastinger (Jennifer); George Braswell (Ashley); and many cousins. He is predeceased by his parents, J. Walter and Sarah Braswell.



**Shirley J. Brown**, 86, passed away peacefully, on August 19, 2021, at home in Wichita Falls, Texas, surrounded by her family. She was born on May 27, 1935, in Weirton, West Virginia, to Arthur and Margaret Evans.

Shirley was a devoted wife to William M. Brown and a loving mother to her eight daughters, 19 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. She was also a loving pet parent to her beloved Chihuahuas, Lilly, and Mia.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, Arthur and Margaret Evans, her husband, William M. Brown, and her grandsons, David D. Rollins and Christopher M. Brown, Jr.

Shirley is survived by her brother, Jack Evans of Weirton, W.V., and daughters Amber Parsons (William) of Gwinn, Mich., Terra Brown of Wichita Falls, Texas, Billie Darago (Kevin) of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, Michele Formica (Richard) of Palm Bay, Fla., Susan Dodge (Rock) of Cape Coral, Fla., Priscilla Rollins (Mike) of Wichita Falls, Texas, Kathleen Klush (Frank) of Apopka, Fla., Mary Mannella of Wichita Falls, Texas and Christopher Brown (Ashley) of Shepherdstown, W.V.

Shirley will be remembered as a woman with great faith, undeniable loyalty to her family, and a rich sense of humor. Children and animals would instinctively gather around her, and she delighted in their presence. Although Shirley will be forever missed, there is comfort knowing she has been reunited with Christ and her husband and best friend, William.



**William M. Brown**, 85, passed away peacefully, on November 6, 2013, at his home in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, surrounded by his family. He was born on April 1, 1928, in Colliers, W.V., to Harry and Ruth Brown.

William was a devoted husband to Shirley J. Brown and a loving father to his children, 18 grandchildren, and

26 great-grandchildren.

After serving in the military and working on the Pennsylvania Railroad, William continued his career working in Cuba with the United Fruit Company. Returning to the U.S., William worked in the steel industry and retail management before again leaving the country on an offer from the Panama Canal Company in 1962. William retired as manager of the Panama Railroad, a division of the Panama Canal Zone, in 1978.

William will be remembered as a man with strong morals, impeccable ethics, and a love for God, his family, and his country.

William was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Ruth Brown, his brother, Harry Brown, and his sister, Jean Kotouch.

William is survived by his wife, the former Shirley J. Evans of Weirton, W.V.; daughters Amber Parsons (William) of Gwinn, Mich., Terra Brown of Wichita Falls, Texas, Billie Flick (Thomas) of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, Michele Formica (Richard) of Palm Bay, Fla., Susan Zimmerman of Cape Coral, Fla., Priscilla Rollins (Walter) of Fort Worth, Texas, Kathleen Dimascio of Pittston, Penn., Mary Mannella of Melbourne, Fla.; and his son, Christopher Brown of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. William is also survived by his sisters, Kathryn Gardei, Audrey Bingiel of Colliers, W.V., and Harriet Hinchcliffe of Bloomingdale, Ohio.



**Collin P. Corrigan**, 76, of Ocala, Fla., passed in his home in his recliner on September 27, 2021, with his wife of 54 years, Alberta Wilder Corrigan, by his side. Collin was suffering from dementia and Parkinson's. Both diseases progressed very quickly.

Collin was born in Panama Hospital on July 8, 1945, and graduated from Cristobal High School in 1963. He was one of the very few who moved from the Pacific side to the Atlantic side while in high school. He became the "Man of the Hour" for being the new guy in CHS for all us girls. After graduating, Collin tried college stateside in Texas and then in Canal Zone Junior College. But that was not really for him. He was hired as a Boarding Officer with Boyd Brothers Steamship Company. Collin and Alberta got married in 1967. He passed the apprentice test and graduated as a Marine Machinist with the Panama Canal Company. He was hired and went to work at Gatun Locks. During that time, their two children were born, Teirnan in 1969 and Gerald in 1971. He transferred to the Industrial Division in Mt. Hope as a Marine Machinist. He loved the Industrial Division and worked up the ranks, from

Shop Foreman to Planner/Estimator to Production Superintendent, and finally retiring in 2002 as Chief of the Industrial Division. He and Alberta moved finally to the Pacific side- but into the heart of Panama City. After about six months of retirement, he was approached by the President of the Panama Railway to go back to work as Director of the Machine Shop. He truly loved that job. He loved being with workers, teaching and showing how to use the machines, etc. It was indeed his dream job. His hours were long there, but it didn't bother him at all. He loved the challenge of each job that had to be done. After retiring again, he and Alberta moved to their home in Ocala. They traveled back and forth to Panama for a while but decided it was time to enjoy one place. Alberta will remain in their home in Ocala.

Collin is survived by Alberta and children, Tiernan and Gerald, and son-in-law Dodd DuPree. There are a total of five grandchildren, a grandson-in-law, and soon one great-grandchild. Rest in peace, my love; you are in my heart forever. Until we meet again. Collin was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



**Dan Albert Des Londes** died July 3, 2021, in Oldsmar, Florida. He was born at Gorgas Hospital, Ancon, Canal Zone, in Panama on August 29, 1941, to James and Beverly (Caruthers) Des Londes. Dan graduated from Balboa High School in 1959 and attended Stetson University, Canal Zone College, Indiana

University, and Middle Tennessee State University. He received a degree in Business from MTU and received a Master's Degree from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. Dan then ran the DCT program for high school career choices in Key West and Lake Worth, Florida. While visiting his brother, Jim, in Panama, Dan interviewed for a job at the Canal Zone College. He taught business classes - mainly accounting and economics, and really enjoyed every minute of teaching. He believed the students were there to experience every subject they could and would know when they found something they really liked.

Dan met Mary Grindstaff the first weekend she came to Florida to begin teaching. Mary had gone to college with Pat Rogers, who was also from the Zone, and Pat arranged a blind date. Mary and Dan were married in 1970 and then went to Panama, where both taught for twenty years. After retiring in 1991 and moving to Florida, Dan became interested in several businesses. He became involved in Papa John's Pizza Company for several years and then with motorcycle trailers and after-market products. He never stopped playing golf---a life-long passion that he always enjoyed and found relaxing.

Dan was very proud of his Panama heritage. Both of his grandfathers worked for the Panama Canal Company. Following in his father's footsteps, he enjoyed the life and culture of Panama. He was always involved with golf and even won the Wally Trout Open. As a youngster, he played Little League and on the teams his father coached. As he became older, he kept the records and statistics for different leagues.

In high school and at Canal Zone College, he enjoyed

playing football even though sustaining injuries. He and Charlie Chase were constantly debating over who was the wittiest in the class of '59. In the yearbook, Charlie won, and Dan was runner-up, but Dan always accused Charlie of fixing it, and Charlie maintained his superiority! The two never met at a reunion that this was not the 1st thing they debated. Dan also enjoyed riding motorcycles in high school and in the 70s in Panama and again in Florida after retirement. He made several overseas trips, but his favorite was a trip was to Mexico, where 10-12 Zonians shipped their bikes out of Tampa to Merida. They seem to have had a good time in Mexico, and after people realized they weren't some wild and crazy gang, they really enjoyed themselves. Dan and Mary cruised many times with Morgan and Carolyn Schoch. The laughs and memories (driving a Skoda (a rental in Panama), side trips in Alaska, Duck Tour in Boston, etc.) always gave the four of them a never-ending list of ideas of what to do or try next.

Dan is preceded in death by his parents and survived by his wife, Mary Ellen Des Londes; his brother, Jim; and nieces and nephews. A celebration of Dan's life is planned at the 2022 Panama Canal Society Reunion. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



**William "Bill" Edward Hattabaugh** passed away peacefully at his residence in Minneola, Florida, on September 16, 2021.

Bill was born in Pratt, Kansas, on May 5, 1938, to Gladys Churchwell and William Everett Hattabaugh.

Bill graduated from Pratt High School in 1956. He joined the National Guard and completed his education at Pratt Community College and Northwestern University in Alva, Okla. After college, he was employed by the Civil Service in Seattle, Wash. Bill later applied for and accepted a position with the Panama Canal Commission in 1969 in the Republic of Panama, where he met his loving wife, Diana Pedreschi. They got married on October 10, 1970, and settled in Panama. After 28 years of dedicated service, Bill retired as Chief of the Payroll Branch with the Panama Canal Commission. Bill and Diana raised their three children in the Canal Zone, Panama. He had called Panama his home since then. Bill enjoyed playing tennis and hosting happy hours with friends and family at their beach home in Gorgona, Panama. He was a member of the Canal Zone Bottle Collectors Association and the Panama Canal Society.

He was a loving, loyal and devoted husband, dad, and grandfather. Bill will always be remembered as the beloved husband of 50 years to Diana Pedreschi de Hattabaugh; loving father of Carlos (Michelle) Hattabaugh, Minneola, Fla., Gladys (Russ) Hattabaugh-Stromberg, Windermere, Fla., and Julia Hattabaugh, Clermont, Fla.; loyal brother of Anita Cousins of Col., Frank Hattabaugh of Calif. and John (Francie) Hattabaugh of Mo. Bill was a proud and devoted grandfather of Victoria Hattabaugh, Christian Stromberg, Sean Stromberg, Paige Janosczyk, and Ava Janosczyk.



**Margaret Mary (Kunkel) Herring**, 98, of Lynn Haven, Florida, passed away at home on October 4, 2020, surrounded by her children.



Margaret's father, Edward Kunkel, worked for the Dredging Division at Gamboa in the Canal Zone during the construction era – 1908. She was born at Gorgas Hospital in 1922, and grew up in Gamboa, riding the train daily to Balboa High School. She fell for a handsome, young Railroad Conductor, George Herring, and married at 20. She thought her ship had come in – but all she got was a raft of kids – ten of them. After 42 years of Panama Canal service, George and Margaret retired to upstate New York, but after ten years, George died, and Margaret moved back to the Zone to live with her daughter, Anne Marie. After ten more years, Margaret, Anne Marie, and Christine moved to Lynn Haven, Fla., closer to other raft members.

God's biblical promise to good Israelites was that they would live to see their children's children. Margaret was blessed to see her children's children's children's children – it might have been a bit much for the average mom, but she was more than your average mom. There are ten living witnesses (Elaine, Mary, Mike, Tim, Christine, Mark, Joe, Anne Marie, Steve, and Ed) to the uncommon love that poured forth from the generous heart of this prayerful mom. She was naturally very frail at the end, but her mind and sense of humor were great. We are all looking forward to reuniting with George and Margaret in our true home in heaven.



**Teresa A. (Brown) Jenkins** passed away at home on May 31, 2021, in Joplin, Missouri.

Born on September 29, 1951, she was the eldest daughter of Charlie and Eileen Brown and was raised on the Pacific side of the former Canal Zone Panama.

Teresa graduated from Balboa High School in 1969. At the time of her death, Teresa was employed as a cook. She loved cats, reading novels, and playing cards. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Charlie Brown and Eileen Brown, and sister Diane Brown. She is survived by her husband, JJ (Jerry) Jenkins and two daughters, Tracy and Lynn.



Captain **Albert D Jones**, US Navy Ret., passed away at home surrounded by his loving family on September 29, 2021, following a brave fight with brain cancer.

Al is survived by his wife Lola Frauenheim Jones and his daughters Tara Sellers (Dave), Lisa Hall, and Ashlyn Murray (Adam).

He was known as “Cappy” to his eight grandchildren - Olivia and Andrea Sellers, Morgan Hall Ashbaugh (Sam), Christian and Patrick Hall, Emma, Cooper and Lyla Murray, one great-grandson Tommy, his sister Dona Brophy of Castine, Maine, and many extended family members.

Al was born June 8, 1937, in Colon, Panama, and grew up there until he graduated from Balboa High School class of 1956. He enlisted into the U.S. Navy in 1956 and completed basic training in Bainbridge, Md. After completing Submarine School, he was assigned to the USS *Caiman* (SS-323) out of San Diego, Calif. After his four-year commitment, Al left the Navy and attended LSU, graduating in 1967 with Bachelors in Physical Geography. He returned to the Navy through the Aviation Officer Candidate program and completed Advanced Jet Navigation, where he was designated a Naval Flight Officer in May 1968. Duty assignments include VA-42, VA-85, VA-34, and VA-75 for the A6E Intruder. Decorations include Air Medal with #7, Navy Commendation Medal with Gold Star and Combat “V,” Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, and Vietnam Campaign Medal to name a few. Later career achievements include Air Boss on the USS Saratoga CV-60 from July 87 to Aug 89 and finishing out his career as Director of Naval Education Training Center in Newport, Rhode Island. He served our country for over 32 years and retired in 1994 in Jacksonville Beach, Fla., and Hendersonville, N.C.

Cappy enjoyed spending time with his family, fishing, woodworking, building military model airplanes, and baseball. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

His legacy lives on in our family, and we are comforted that he is no longer suffering and that we will all be together again one day in the Heavenly Kingdom of God.



**Donna Jean (Miller) Kimball**, 74, passed away peacefully on July 24, 2021.

Donna was born in Taylorville, Ill., the fifth of nine children. She met the love of her life, John, in St. Louis, Mo., and they married on April 2, 1967. They spent the first three years of their marriage mostly apart as John finished his time in the U.S. Army overseas. They were able to meet for a week-long visit in Oahu, Hawaii, in 1969, where they made many memories. John completed his service in October 1970, just after Carol was born, and they settled in Tampa, Florida. They traveled to Panama in 1972, so John could show her where he grew up and enjoyed several weeks there together.

As John started his 25-year career with the U.S. Postal Service, Donna became the ultimate homemaker and stayed at home with Carol and their son Tommy who came along in 1974. She was very active in the PTA when the kids started school, then became both a Girl and Boy Scout leader as they got older. Later she worked as a Tupperware manager, an accountant for Barnett Bank, and retired as a manager for Hancock Fabrics.

Donna was a DIY-er long before the term was coined, and her many hobbies included macrame, needlework, crochet,

gardening, pottery, interior decorating, and woodworking. Her ultimate DIY project was a huge captain’s bed she made for Tommy all by herself that was a work of art, and John always says, “She could build you a house!” However, her favorite hobby was sewing, and she was truly an expert seamstress. She lovingly created a personalized memory quilt for each of her six grandchildren, both of her children, and her husband. Anyone lucky enough to taste her homemade lasagna, meatloaf, or pound cake knew she was also an amazing cook. Donna was detail-oriented and believed anything worth doing was worth doing well, and this philosophy showed in everything she did. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

John and Donna moved to Crystal River, Fla. in 1995 after John retired, then to New Port Richey, Fla. in 2016. Over the years, Donna developed Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD) and became less and less able to do the things she loved physically. Though Donna fought it as hard as she could, it affected her ability to walk. Eventually, she became bed-bound and moved to Consulate Health Care New Port Richey in 2019, where John visited her each and every day. In March 2021, her health began to decline, and she was hospitalized several times before going to Marliere Hospice. Her family was able to be with her almost constantly during her last few days and are grateful they had the chance to hold her hand, tell her they loved her, share memories, and say goodbye.

Donna was a strong woman who took care of everyone she loved. She is now in a beautiful place where she feels no pain and is able to be with the loved ones who went before her.

She was preceded in death by her parents William and Hazel Miller; her eight siblings Betty Ann, Bill Jr., Harry, Mike, Mary, Carl, Sammy, and Judy; her daughter Angela Marie; and her great-grandson Omarion.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, John of Trinity, Fla., a long-time Panama Canal Society member born in Colon, Panama, and member of Balboa High class of 1960.

She is also survived by her daughter Carol and her husband Michael of Land O’Lakes, Fla., her son Tommy and his wife Dina of Crystal River, Fla.; her grandchildren Jessica and her wife Aly of San Diego, Calif., Steven of Davenport, Fla., Jordan and his fiancé Christina of Katy, Texas, Austin of Crystal River, Fla., Olivia of Crystal River, Fla., and Amanda of Spring Hill, Fla.; her great-granddaughter Chloe of Crystal River, Fla.; and many nieces, nephews, and other extended families.



**Cheryl Kresge**, 65, passed away on September 12, 2021. Cheryl was born in Panama on February 22, 1956, and was the loving and devoted daughter of the late Fulvia Correa-Estribi and Richard Kresge. She left the Panama Canal Zone in her late teens and moved to the United States. Cheryl lived in several different states throughout her adult life but settled on Cape Cod for more than 30 years. In her time on the Cape, she

made many friends and brought so much light to the lives of those around her. She was known in her community as a warm and generous spirit.

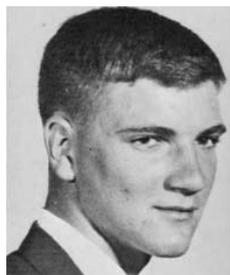
In 2011, she reconnected with many of her cousins, uncles, and aunts in Panama. She loved spending time with her family and had the opportunity to fall back in love with the country of her birth with visits and hosting many of her family members and showing them New England life.

In 2016, Cheryl moved to Mansfield to be close to her son and grandchildren. She was a devoted caregiver to Jason (6) and Dean (30 until the time of her passing. She loved Mansfield and enjoyed going for long walks around town, visiting the library, and spending time with her chocolate lab, Hannah, and her cat, Finn.

Caring for others was a core part of what brought her joy. She served her community by working in elementary school cafeterias and also worked as a personal care assistant. She was an avid blood donor and always prioritized participating in volunteer opportunities of all different kinds.

She was a wonderful mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, sister, cousin, aunt, and friend and will be sorely missed by all who survive her. Her presence in the lives of those around her was a gift that will always be remembered. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

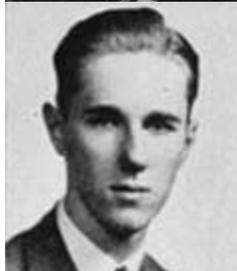
She is survived by her son Brandon Gillespie, daughter-in-law Leah Gillespie, and her two grandsons, Jason, and Dean Gillespie. She is also survived by her brother, Richard Kresge, and many other loving family members.



**Duncan Bruce Laird**, 63, was born in Ancon, Canal Zone, and passed away on Dec. 7, 2014, at his residence in Belleville, Illinois.

Duncan was raised in the Canal Zone and graduated with the class BHS'69. He was charismatic, and memories of him all involve his ability to connect with people. He had a kind heart and liked nothing better than to help in any way he could. Reading was both his passion and his lifeline, music his solace. He enjoyed old movies. In his youth, he was a wonderful trombonist, and he always loved singing. He enjoyed the small pleasures in life - a pretty flower, a good argument, a well-written book, a good piece of pie. He was a life-long learner, constantly taking courses to learn something new. He studied engineering at Alamosa State College and Auburn University and held associate degrees in science and computer science. He worked as a chemist, heating and cooling specialist, maintenance engineer, and security specialist. His life was often a struggle, but he will be remembered with love.

He is predeceased by his parents, Duncan Laird, Jr. and Harriet A. Uphoff Laird. He is survived by his sister, Sandy Perkins (Jim) of Lebanon, Ill.; and nephews, Duncan Peirce Perkins (Ocean Springs, Miss.) and Laird Perkins (Lebanon, Ill.).



**John Denys Mayles** passed away on September 6th at the age of 94 in his residence at John Knox Village in Orange City, Florida. He was born in London, England on October 10, 1926, the third child of William Boitout Mayles and May Elizabeth Paine. At the age of 13, he left England by sea to live with his sister Maisie and her husband Billy Doel in Panama for the duration of the war. After graduating from Balboa High School in the Canal Zone in 1944, he enlisted in the British Army spending time in Kenya and Egypt serving in the Intelligence Corps. After his tour in the Army, he returned to Panama to work for his brother-in-law at Agencias Doel. He met and married

Ann Gardner Nichols whose father was serving in Panama with the U.S. Navy. He was a co-owner and Manager at Agencias Doel until the company was sold in 1993. John and Ann retired to Homosassa Springs, Fla. in 1993 where they spent the next 17 years before moving to John Knox Village in Orange City, Fla. in March 2010.

He and Ann were very active serving the Panamanian community. In recognition for his contributions to improving the quality of life in Panama, he was awarded The Gold Panama Canal Honorary Public Service Award. He served on the Board of Trustees of the Panama Canal College as well as United Fund and United Way. He was a member of the British Aid Society, a member and former President of the Rotary Club of Panama, and a former President of the Panama Golf Club. He contributed extensively to the support of the Episcopal community in Panama, particularly to St. Luke's Cathedral. John was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

As a lifetime member of the Theatre Guild of Ancon, he was proud to have appeared in 16 productions there between 1954 and 1987. Some of his happiest memories of his 45 years in Panama are associated with the Guild and he treasured so many friendships formed there which last to this day.

Some of his favorite pastimes were playing the organ, competing at a game of Scrabble, Wii bowling, working a crossword puzzle, watching Jeopardy, listening to music and visiting with friends and family over a nice meal, especially if it involved bread and Marmite. Besides being an actor himself, he enjoyed attending live performances and he particularly enjoyed the music programs at nearby Stetson University.

John was always a true English gentleman, full of class, loving, charismatic, charming, clever, and funny. Whether you knew him as Dad or Pops, John or Denys, Grandpa, Brother or Uncle, Capt. Von Trapp, Professor Higgins or Fagin, he was a character like no other and definitely one in a million.

Left to cherish his memory are four children, Lynn Mayles Patterson (Dave), William Brian Mayles (Gay Hope), Michael Kevin Mayles (Terri), Phillip Andrew Mayles (April); eight grandsons, Jason Kyle Williams, William Jonathan Mayles (Jillian), Joshua Andrew Mayles, Kevin Matthew Mayles, Christopher Denys Mayles (Deanna),

Patrick John Mayles, Andrew Connor Arkwright, and Luke Owen Mayles; and six great-grandchildren, Noah, Caleb, Olivia, Audrie, Maya, and Owen. He is also survived by his brother William Philip Maurice Mayles (Helen). Also surviving him are many cherished nephews, nieces, friends and his dear friend, Jean Arrington.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ann Gardner Nichols Mayles, son John Bruce Mayles, and daughter Pamela Mayles, his parents, William Boitoult Mayles and May Elizabeth Paine, his stepmother Mollie Mayles, his brother Robert Maurice Boitoult Mayles and his sister, Maisie Woodland Boitoult Doel.



graduating with a Master's degree in Library Science. She later became an instructor at the Canal Zone Junior College, teaching psychology and business writing classes.

Upon her husband's retirement, Gemma and Jim moved to St. Petersburg, Florida. Gemma took great pleasure in her garden and in volunteering in the community. She was named Woman of the Year by the

St. Petersburg YWCA for her community service. She also taught classes in English as a second language to various communities., In particular, Gemma is well-loved by members of the Vietnamese immigrant community for her support. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

A great sadness for Gemma was that she was predeceased by all three of her beloved sons, Jim, Joe, and Steve.

Gemma is survived by her husband, James O'Donnell of St. Petersburg; her daughter Mary Olivella of California; her daughter-in-law, Francia Olmos of Panama; her brothers, William Wright of Arizona and Cale Wright of New York; and her much-loved caretaker, Louis Gaines of St. Petersburg.



**Edgar Robert McArthur - "Bobo,"** 93, passed away at home in Santa Ana de Los Santos, Panama on August 20, 2021.

Bobo was one of the lucky few to have been born, raised, graduated, worked, and retired in the Canal Zone. Although a Canal Zone boy, his love for the countryside of Panama shaped his life forever. In his youthful years, Bobo would travel with his Canal Zone teammates to compete with the local teams of the interior as he had a true passion for sports (basketball and fastpitch softball). This would eventually lead to years of vacations with his kids in tow for every carnival and holiday available to him and finally retirement. Bobo had a wonderful infectious smile and the patience of a good-hearted Christian man.



During his retirement years, he was a humanitarian in his small community in Los Santos. Bobo loved to swim in the oceans/rivers of Panama, and one of his favorite ways to spend his time was fishing at Gatun Lake for some peacock bass. His life was a success and truly magical. As he always said, "no regrets." He will be dearly missed.

He is survived by his four children: Ed McArthur, Dalyce "Lolly" Cohorst, Richard "Dicky" McArthur, and Ruth Coffman; his 12 grandchildren; and his one great-grandchild.



**Dr. Arthur Payne, Jr.,** 73, loving father and grandfather, passed away May 27, 2021.

Arthur was born August 20, 1947, in Margarita, Canal Zone, Panama to Arthur Capen Payne Sr. and Elaine Mae Risteen. He loved growing up in the Canal Zone. In 1965, Arthur graduated from Balboa High School as one of the top of his class. He then attended Stevens Institute of Technology; where he received his Bachelor of Science in Physics and Mathematics with Honor, Master of Science in Physics, and Doctorate in Theoretical Physics. In 1977 he joined the U.S. Navy and was an instructor in and the



Director of the Physics Division at the U.S. Naval Nuclear Power School in Orlando, Florida. Arthur then moved to Albuquerque, N.M. to work at Sandia National Laboratories as a Physicist and Analyst. He retired from Sandia in 2009.

Arthur was an avid reader, principally of science fiction, science, art, philosophy, history, and politics. He was an accomplished chess and go player. He was passionate for classical music and attended many concerts. He loved nature, mountaineering, backpacking, hiking, and camping. He played the Spanish guitar, wrote poetry, and enjoyed drawing and oil painting. He was a member of the New Mexico Art League. He was a foodie who especially enjoyed New Mexican, Japanese, Thai, and Indian food. He especially loved spending time with his grandchildren and playing with his grandpuppies and grandkitties. Arthur was a genuine Renaissance Man.

He is survived by his daughters and their husbands, Patricia (Kevin) Emig and Erin (Michael) Blohm; grandchildren Christofer Hoffman and Lily Emig; and former wife,



**Gemma O'Donnell,** 86, passed away on October 6, 2021, in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Originally from Panama City in the Republic of Panama, Gemma attended the U.S.-run Canal Zone schools in Panama, where she met her future husband, James J. O'Donnell. They were married and raised four children, Jim, Joe, Mary, and Steve.

Gemma was a Girl Scout Leader and swimming instructor at the Balboa Pool. After her children were grown, she attended the Canal Zone Junior College and Florida State College,

Linda Payne. Arthur is also survived by his sister-in-law and husband Marsha (James) Slover; brother-in-law and wife, Paul and Joan Cawood Hellmund; two stepbrothers Robert and John Donaldson; stepsister, Rae Donaldson; five nephews, Jon Slover (Jamie), Charles Slover, Robert Slover, Andrew Hellmund (Else-Jean), and Noah Hellmund; two grandnephews, James Slover and Matthew Slover; and one grand-niece Emily Slover. He was preceded in death by his parents; stepfather, Robert Donaldson; brother, Robert Payne; and brother-in-law, James Hellmund.

their son, Steve, in the Gig Harbor area. Jim is preceded in death by his wife Noralie, brother Richard and son John. He is survived by his younger brother David of Laguna Beach, Calif.; son Steve of Gig Harbor, Wash.; and daughter Clover of North Bonneville, Wash., along with eight grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Jim will always be remembered as having a spring in his step and a story to tell! Oh, and if he beat you at a game of cribbage, he would promptly announce "Campion del Mundo!" A celebration of his life will be held at a later date and eventually, his remains will be scattered in the Chagres River in Gamboa, where Noralie's ashes have been scattered.



**James (Jim) William Shobe** passed away on September 26, 2021, at St. Anthony's hospital in Gig Harbor, Washington. Born March 31, 1932, in Ancon, Canal Zone, he was the oldest of three sons of Solomon and Clover Williams Shobe. He grew up in Gamboa, Canal Zone, and was a lover of the outdoors, enjoying fishing, swimming, hunting, and even getting into and out of mischief as a young man. After graduating from Balboa High School in 1950 and attending Canal Zone College, he came home and told his dad that he was wasting his money sending him to college and wanted to become an apprentice. He graduated from the Panama Canal Apprentice Program as a Central Office Repairman working

in the Telephone Branch.

He married Noralie Roche in the Gamboa Union Church on October 12, 1951. It was the first service held in the newly built church, and it was said that even the church pews were still slightly tacky with fresh varnish. Jim and Noralie lived in various homes in the Canal Zone early in their marriage as he was an apprentice, and they didn't have the right to permanent housing. They resided in mainly older 12 family apartments before they were condemned and torn down. While living in these old houses, Jim perfected his building of spearguns and tested them on the walls in the soon-to-be condemned houses. Later, Jim was transferred to the Atlantic Side of the Canal Zone and secured permanent housing. He is quoted as saying, "I went kicking and screaming to the Atlantic Side." Jim and Noralie had three children, Stephen, born in Ancon, and John and Clover, born in Coco Solo.

Jim kept busy after hours in his "hobby shop," building boats and working on motorcycles that his sons raced and rebuilding an old Army Jeep. All the while helping others along the way. Later, he was transferred to the Pacific Side and is quoted as saying, "I went kicking and screaming back to the Pacific Side!" All those who knew him would agree that Jim could tell one story after another about life in the Canal Zone.

In January of 1981, he retired to Bellingham, Washington, built his own hobby shop, and continued helping others with various projects while traveling with Noralie. He loved fishing for trout in Canada and salmon along the Washington State coast. Later, for health reasons, they moved closer to



**Janet May Stuart, 72,** went to be with our Lord on October 7, 2021. She passed away at her home in Ormond Beach, Florida, surrounded by family and friends.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Janet grew up in the Canal Zone where her father, Capt. John Stuart worked as a Panama Canal pilot. She graduated from Balboa High School with the class of 1967. After graduation, she attended college in El Paso, Texas, before moving to Jacksonville, Florida, where she met her husband, Dwayne Willingham (deceased 2017).

Dwayne and Janet moved to Fort Payne, Ala., in the early 1970s and had two beautiful children, Lindsay Kyle Willingham and David Stuart Willingham. Janet attended the Northeast Alabama Junior College in Rainsville, Ala., where she received her Registered Nursing degree. Janet passed the Alabama Nursing School Boards and received her license. She worked for a nursing home and then worked for a home health agency. Janet moved to Ormond Beach, Fla., and was the Assistant Director of Nursing for the Health Center of Daytona (renamed Solaris). Janet had a green thumb and turned her lanai into a tropical paradise with a Koi pond, orchids, and various flowering plants. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

She was preceded in death by her parents Capt. John Marshall Stuart and Tove Andersen Stuart, and brother Johnny Stuart. Janet is survived by her daughter Lindsay Kyle Willingham; son David Stuart Willingham; sister-in-law Beatrice (BeBe) Holmes Daniel; sister-in-law Anita Hewitt; and niece Kristin Hewitt Vega, and great-niece Natalie Vega. Janet will be missed by multiple friends from the Panama Canal Zone, Alabama, Florida, and her extended family in New York. She was loved by many.

Obituary submissions are only accepted from family members. We will accept online Funeral obituaries or newspaper obituaries if family submissions are not received by the *Canal Record* deadlines. Obituary pictures may be emailed to [record@pancanalsociety.org](mailto:record@pancanalsociety.org) or mailed to the Panama Canal Society office. Emailed pictures must be submitted in a jpeg or tif format in 300 DPI or higher.