

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 or mailed to the Panama Canal Society office. Emailed pictures must be submitted in a jpeg or tif format in 300 DPI or higher.



Sister **Barbara Frances Barr**, M.M. died on August 27th, 2022, at the Maryknoll Sisters Center, in Maryknoll, New York. She was 94 years old and had been a Maryknoll Sister for 75 years.

Barbara was born in Ancon, Canal Zone, the Republic of Panama, on August 12th, 1928, to Robert Barr and Mary Frances (Westberg) Barr. She had one sister, Helen, and four brothers, Thomas, John, Francis, and Peter. All have pre-deceased her, except for her brother Peter.

Barbara attended Balboa High School and graduated in 1946. She then studied at the Canal Zone Junior College from 1945 – 1947, where she obtained an Associate of Arts Degree.

Barbara did this while working as a cashier for the Panama Canal Company. She then entered the Maryknoll Sisters Novitiate in Maryknoll, N.Y., on September 6th, 1947, from Sacred Heart Parish in Panama City.

Sister Barbara pronounced her First Vows on March 7th, 1950, in Maryknoll, N.Y., and her Final Vows three years later on March 7th, 1953 in Bolivia. From 1949-1952, she continued her studies at the Maryknoll Teachers College (located on the property of the Maryknoll Sisters Center, Maryknoll, N.Y.), where she earned a Bachelor of Education Degree. Her first overseas mission assignment was to Bolivia in 1952. There she studied Spanish in Cochabamba for six months and, in 1953, was assigned to Guayamarin to serve as a substitute Principal for six months. She then transferred to San José and Riberalta in the Beni vicariate of Bolivia to teach students shorthand, typing, and English.

In 1955 she was assigned to Lima, Peru, where she taught 5th grade until 1959. In 1959 she returned to Cochabamba, Bolivia, and taught 3rd grade at Santa Ana Parish School. During this time, she also taught High School Art until 1964. She then relocated to Cobija to teach 6th grade and was also in charge of the Youth Club for two years. In 1966 she returned to Riberalta, Bolivia, to serve as Principal of the Parish Primary School, where she remained for the next four years.

In 1970 Sister Barbara returned to the United States and did mission education and promotion work in Texas and Chicago for two years. She then returned to Guayarmarin, Beni, Bolivia, where she served as the Primary School Principal. While there, she also worked with the Parent Teachers Association and began to do teacher training until 1979.

In 1979 Sister Barbara was assigned to Santa Cruz, Bolivia, where she worked with Maryknoll's "Evangelization by Radio" for rural areas, writing scripts for the programs and

assisting in their production department until 1984. She was also doing religious formation in public high schools during this time. From 1984-1987, she served in Montero, Department of Santa Cruz, working on the Rural Pastoral Project. In 1988 she began working with CEPRIFEM (Center for Integral Promotion of Rural Women).

In 1990 Sister Barbara returned to the Maryknoll Sisters Center, Maryknoll, N.Y., to work in the Communication Office as a writer for three years and served on the Congregation's Center Council before returning to Santa Cruz, Bolivia, to again work with CEPRIFEM until 1998. She then retired to the Maryknoll Sisters Center, where she worked as a Mail Desk Supervisor in the Development Department until 2005. She remained an active volunteer around the Center until her death.



Ron Corbett passed away in his home in Ocala, Florida, surrounded with the love of his brother Ken and his wife of 50 years Sydney. He fought the good fight, he finished the race, he kept the faith—2 Timothy 4:7-8 sums up Dr. Ron's life. God, Country, Family were the three priorities in his life.

An enthusiastic entrepreneur, Ron had several businesses over the years. In Panama, he had American Supply for 20+ years, offering an unusual combination of restaurant, billiard, wedding, and cake decorating supplies. The motto was Si Hay—Yes, we have it. When we "retired" to the United States in 1999, he opened Yes Solutions, an ink toner/cartridge and printing business.

His motto for life was "Yes, it can be done." He loved a challenge and loved helping others learn how to meet their challenges. He volunteered with SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) for many years in Ocala, sharing his business acumen and expertise with those who were opening their own new businesses or who needed guidance to help their businesses prosper.

He was a proud Air Force Veteran, having served in Viet Nam as an air-sea rescue paramedic and earning a battlefield commission. He had been a POW until he escaped and helped several others escape also. He was stationed in Panama when he left the Service after 9 years. He stayed in Panama because he met Sydney, who was a teacher in the local high school. They married in 1972 and stayed there until the Carter-Torrijos Treaty closed the American schools and turned the Canal over to Panama in 1999.

While in Panama, Ron served as a Scout leader for the Sea Scouts. He loved sailing and enjoyed sharing his love and ability with the youth. In addition to a love for sailing, he also loved flying. He helped run a small flying school for those

seeking their private pilot's license. He was also the "Dad" Advisor for the DeMolay, leading young men to understand responsibility and morally right living.

Also while in Panama, he served on the Presidential Council of Economics as an advisor on international commerce to Presidents Lakas and Royo. This was quite an honor for a "gringo," a testament to his business acumen.

When in his late-50s, he decided he wanted to have a PhD, "just for fun." He achieved that goal in 1996, after applying for an extension due to surgery for a brain tumor. He enjoyed being called "Dr. Ron" or "the Doc" by his friends and colleagues.

He is survived by his wife, Sydney (Townsend) Corbett, his brother Kenneth Corbett living in Utah, and his daughter Virginia (Ginger) Corbett living in Las Vegas. Those wishing to honor Dr. R. Ronald Corbett's memory are encouraged to donate to organizations that help Veterans. Ron was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

the more than 200 ham radio operators that worked at Sperry very happy," wrote Dannals.

While at Sperry, he met his future wife, Kay, and they were married for over 60 years. Dannals lived in Dix Hills, New York, prior to his retirement to Charlottesville, Virginia, in the early 1990s.

Dannals volunteered for several appointments in the ARRL Field Organization: Official Relay Station (ORS); Official Phone Station (OPS); Official Observer (OO), and Emergency Coordinator (EC). He held elected positions as Section Communications Manager (SCM), Vice Director, and Director of the ARRL Hudson Division. He was elected President by the ARRL Board in 1972 and served for five two-year terms. During his office, he traveled extensively to help represent ARRL -- visiting all 50 states, the Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, Chile, Peru, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and the United Kingdom. International travel fulfilled his role as US Representative to Region II of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU).

Dannals recounted that during his presidency, preparations were made for the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) of 1979. Through the efforts of ARRL staff, volunteers, and the FCC, the conference led to the worldwide allocation of the 30, 17, and 12-meter bands (the WARC Bands).

"Without question, the time devoted to ARRL matters, working with the very capable and dedicated staff, and my association with the board of directors was a wonderful experience," wrote Dannals. "Each year was punctuated by new developments for ham radio. A volume of great memories will never be forgotten." "Since the time that he was President of ARRL, I always called him 'Prez.' And Prez would enjoy chatting about all of the wonderful people at Headquarters," said his son, Bob Dannals, W2GG, in a remembrance he shared with ARRL. "My dad considered each ham that he met to be a member of his extended family. He cared greatly and fought mightily for all hams in his administrative roles with ARRL. He would say that we are all members of the worldwide community that started with Marconi and continued with [Hiram Percy] Maxim. It's a wonderful legacy, and I'm happy that he shared it with me (and everyone else he met)."

Dannals was the oldest member of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, an ARRL Special Service Club. In 2018, Dannals received a visit from ARRL Roanoke Division Director Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, and Vice Director Bill Morine, N2COP, who presented him with the Roanoke Division Award for his dedicated leadership to all amateur radio operators. Dannals was also President Emeritus of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA), having served as President of the QCWA from 1989 to 1994. In 2016, Dannals was honored by QCWA for his 70 years as a radio amateur. In comments about the honor bestowed on him, Kay Craigie, N3KN, who was ARRL President from 2010 - 2016, said that Dannals set an example of "cheerfulness and enthusiasm, and friendliness to all hams, whether they qualify for QCWA twice over or are so new that they haven't memorized their call signs yet."



Harry Dannals, W2HD, President Emeritus of ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio®, died on August 30. He lived in Charlottesville, Virginia. In April, Dannals celebrated his 95th birthday and over 80 years of involvement in amateur radio. He served as ARRL President for ten years, from 1972 - 1982, and his President Emeritus status was conferred in 1984. He was also an ARRL Life Member.



In an interview, Dannals said that when he was ten years old, he practiced Morse code with his best friend and was able to master 50 - 60 words per minute.

Dannals served in the Navy after graduating from Balboa High School 1944 in the former Canal Zone on the isthmus of Panama, where his father was an Officer in Charge of a radio receiving site. Eventually, Dannals would become the supervisor of more than 20 radiomen and support personnel. He was discharged in mid-1946 and attended the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn (now Polytechnic Institute of New York University), where he prepared for his amateur radio license.

In writings shared by one of his children, Dannals wrote, "I found a way to prepare for my amateur license by doing a research paper for an English class using amateur radio as a resource. Among my references was the American Radio Relay League's (ARRL) Radio Amateur's Handbook, with the latest ARRL license manual on the side! It worked, and my call sign, W2TUK, was received that year with a great deal of joy by me and my dad."

After graduating from college in 1950, he worked for the Sperry Corporation, where he worked in radar and other engineering programs. "During almost 40 years of my employment there, the company provided a club station, W2YKQ, which was on the air during lunch periods, a fact that made



Judith Ann Rogers Domenicucci passed away on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, with her family by her side at her home in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Judy was born in Cornwall on the Hudson, N.Y. At a young age, she moved with her parents to Panama Canal Zone. She lived in Curundu Heights and graduated from Balboa High School in 1955 and from Canal Zone Junior College, where she was

a cheerleader. Judy then graduated from the University of Miami with a B.S. degree in Education.

She became an Eastern Airlines stewardess until she moved back home to Curundu Heights to assist her father with her ailing mother. Judy worked for the military at Fort Clayton, where she met and married Capt. Louis Domenicucci. After Louis' tour in Vietnam, they were transferred to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. After four years, they headed to Verona, Italy, for Louis' next four-year tour, where she hosted special functions for the Army. They were transferred to Fort Sheridan, Ill., where she volunteered for the ACS" Army Community Services ." Following this five-year assignment, they returned to Italy for three more years. At the end of this tour, Lou then retired to Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Judy continued to work for the military and received multiple certificates of achievement, including awards for the timely completion of investigations by the DIS, Outstanding Personnel Security, Operation Desert Shield/Storm for processing deployment of personnel, and interim clearances for CONUS, Team Chief of the Southeast Security Team. She received additional awards from the Army.

Upon leaving the military, she became a substitute teacher for Brockett Elementary. She also volunteered at the St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church, and Dekalb Medical Center.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Louis, and daughter, Jennifer. Judy is survived by her daughter Patricia (Steven) Scudellari, son John Domenicucci, sister Patricia (Michael) Bisgrove, grandson Andrew Scudellari, and granddaughter Katie Scudellari.

Judy was laid to rest with her husband and daughter at Eternal Hills, Snellville, Ga. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Robert C. "Bob" Kilpatrick, 75, husband of Catherine French Kilpatrick of Colonie, New York, passed into the loving arms of his Savior Jesus Christ after a brief illness on October 12, 2022, at Albany Medical Center.

Born September 9, 1947, in Washington, D.C., he was the son of the late George A. and Blanche (Leibensperger) Kilpatrick.

Bob went to school in Puerto Rico, Washington, D.C., and graduated from Balboa High School in Panama and Colorado

State University, as well as post-graduate studies at SUNY Albany.

During college, he worked for the National Park Service and, after graduation, moved to internships with the U.S. National Weather Service in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Conn. before moving to full positions in Ohio, and finally in Albany, New York, for a total of 43 years. In retirement, he also worked in Wisconsin. Bob was also a business owner with his wife, Catherine, and an active member of Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Bob loved his family, friends, nature, hiking, body surfing, photography, flying, trains, music, and reading. One of the great thrills of his life was to fulfill a lifelong prayer to go on a mission trip to Uganda in October 2019.

Bob is survived by his wife of 42 1/2 years, Catherine, his daughter Elizabeth (Thomas) Mostachetti of Colonie and beloved "Papa" their four children, Keyna, Ariel, Thomas, and Samantha, and son, David, of Scotia. He is also survived by his brother George "Skip" Kilpatrick (Elizabeth) and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws.



Sheila Farbman La Bella, age 82, sadly passed away in her sleep in the early morning of September 9, 2022. She graduated from Balboa High School with the class of 1958.

Sheila had been residing at Liv Generations in Phoenix, Az., since her move from Deerfield Beach, Fla.

Sheila was predeceased by her parents, Sol and Evelyn Farbman, and her sister, Barbara Farbman

Schwartz (BHS'57). She's survived by her daughter, Melissa, her grandson, Joshua (Taylor), and sisters Carol F. Schwartz (Monty) (BHS'64), Adele F Adams (Robbie) (BHS'69), and several nieces and nephews.



Veralea (Billie) Holton Landrum passed away at Community Hospice Bailey Center in St. Augustine, Florida, on September 3, 2022, following complications from a fall. Billie was 98 years old.

Born August 22, 1924, in Slagle, Louisiana, to Alva and Molly Burns Holton, she was the third of six children (two girls, four boys) and the eldest girl. She graduated from Natchitoches High School in 1941 and attended nursing school at Charity Hospital in Shreveport, Louisiana. As part of her training, she was assigned to the Veterans Hospital in Pine Hill, Louisiana. A young Marine from Alabama named Calvin Maxwell Landrum was transferred to the Veterans Hospital in Pine Hill from San Diego after contracting tuberculosis while serving as a scout sniper in the South Pacific during WWII. Billie and Calvin fell in love and were married on August 8, 1945.

After Calvin's discharge from the hospital and the

Marines, and Billie's graduation as a Registered Nurse, the young couple settled in Alabama, where their two children were born, and Calvin went to work for the M&B Railroad. After Calvin got a job with the Mississippi Central Railroad, the family moved to Hattiesburg and then to Brookhaven, Mississippi.

In June 1962, the family boarded the USS Cristobal in New Orleans, Louisiana, and disembarked in Cristobal, Canal Zone, to begin a new chapter in their lives with Calvin working for the Panama Railroad. When asked how she felt as a wife and mother moving from the rural south to the tropics of Panama, Billie replied, "I was excited." In 1965, Billie began to work at Gorgas Hospital in the Orthopedics Ward. She then transferred to the Operating Room, where she worked until her retirement on December 31, 1985. She made close, life-long friends in the Operating Room and in Panama with who she remained in touch until her death.

Billie and Calvin divorced in 1973 and she embraced her love for travel visiting many places in South and Central America, Europe, and the United States before and after her retirement. She loved her place at Gorgona beach near Mom Duval and will have Gorgona sand buried with her ashes. She also enjoyed spending time in the Volcan with her dear friend Marge Tilley.

After retiring from Gorgas Hospital, Billie moved back to the US and lived in Anacoco and Shreveport, Louisiana; Tallassee, Alabama; Columbus, Georgia; and St. Augustine and Palm Coast, Florida.

Billie relied heavily on her faith and maintained a grateful and positive attitude regardless of the circumstances. She showed us how to age joyfully, independently, and full of grace, and was always ready to share a "bourbon and branch water," an ice cold beer, or a glass of wine. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

She is survived by her son Calvin and his wife Sylvia, her daughter Priscilla Reed and her husband Howard, grandchildren Misty, CM, Charlene (Stephen), and Evan, and great-grandson Lincoln.

Interment will occur in June 2023 during the Holton Family Reunion at the Holton Family Cemetery in Walnut Hill, Louisiana on land homesteaded by the Holton family in 1878. We are at peace knowing she was welcomed into heaven with open arms by her many friends and family.



Franklin Antonio Martin, age 73, passed away on October 18, 2022. Franklin was born in Panama City, Panamá, to Ana Martin and Louis Martin.

At Cristobal High School, Frank was on the R.O.T.C drill team and, in his senior year, was the "F" Company commander. He graduated from Cristobal High School in 1969. He served in the United States Army from 1969 to 1972, right out of high school. After the army, Frank went to work at Boyd Brothers Shipping as a shipping agent in the Panama Canal. He then moved to the States in 1976. Frank

sold Kirby vacuum cleaners and worked for Lakeway Inn. He then went to work as an account executive selling office products, serving for 30 years until he retired in 2001 to enjoy life.

Frank was a good husband, brother, brother-in-law, and a great uncle to all of his nieces and nephews.

Franklin is survived by his wife, Barbara Toomey Martin of Austin, Texas; his mother-in-law Shirley Toomey of Casper, Wyoming; his brother John Martin of Austin, Texas (wife Lilly), his brother Louis Martin of Los Angeles, California; his sister-in-law Susan Martin of Austin, Texas; his sister-in-law Joanne Theobald of Casper, Wyoming (husband Ted); his niece Anne Wilson (husband Ira) of Charlotte, North Carolina, his niece Frances Martin of Austin, Texas, his niece Mayra Martin of Georgetown, Texas, his niece Allison Martin of Marfa, Texas, his nephew Darren Martin of Los Angeles, California (wife Josie), his nephew Dustin Martin of Los Angeles, California, his nephew Mario Martin, Jr. (wife Stacy) of Jacksonville, Florida, his nephew Robert Martin (wife Bernadette) of Hutto, Texas, his niece Allison Renton of Casper, Wyoming and his nephew Max Renton of Casper, Wyoming.

Franklin was preceded in death by his father Louis Martin; his mother Ana Martin; brothers Mario and Robert Martin; his father-in-law William Toomey; his sister-in-law Mercedes Martin and his brother-in-law Don Toomey.



John Warren Meeker III, age 67, of Clearwater, Florida, passed away suddenly on Sunday, May 8, 2022. John was born to John Warren Meeker and Geraldine Meeker in Providence, Rhode Island.

After graduation from Cristobal High School Class of 1972 in Coco Solo, Panama Canal Zone, John did a stint with the United States Air Force serving four years. John then received an Associate Degree from Texas State Technical College in Waco, Texas, where he received his Bio Medical Training and began a lengthy career in the medical device industry.

Once you friended John, you were always a friend. John leaves behind many friends over the years from the Panama Canal Zone, California, Florida, and wherever life landed him. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

John is survived by his sister Pat Meeker Allard and a niece Amy Nesbitt. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Geraldine Meeker, and sister Deborah Meeker Nesbitt. John's wish was to have his ashes placed in the Truckee River, which flows into Lake Tahoe, California. This event will occur in 2023.



David Moehrke passed away at his home in Leland, North Carolina, on August 30, 2022.

David was born in 1945 and raised in the Panama Canal Zone. He attended Balboa High School until 1963. David would have graduated with the Balboa

High School class of 1964.

In the Spring of 2022, David was diagnosed with Mesothelioma. His illness was related to the time he served in his naval career.

David is survived by his wife. David has requested to have his ashes scattered at sea, and his wish will be honored with a Naval burial.



Charles Morris Brooks passed away on May 11, 2022.

Charles - better known as Charlie - was born in Magnolia, North Carolina, on the Brooks family tobacco and timber farm. He arrived in the Canal Zone with his parents, Margaret and Wilfred Morris, in the late 1930s at the end of the Great Depression when he was barely 18 months old.

Charlie's childhood and teenage years were full of mischief and adventures with his friends in the old Canal Zone as World War II shook the world. As an athlete, he earned medals, recognition, and scholarships for track and field and football. As a restless teenager and brave young man, he faced the challenge of crossing the Canal Zone fences into Panama in search of new friends and

adventures. His courage was rewarded when he met and married his beloved wife Julieta and started the second Morris generation in Panama. Charlie graduated from Balboa High School in 1956.

Charlie earned his B.S. in History and Public Administration at Bradley University and his Master's Degree in Political Science from the University of Oklahoma. His solid work ethic was always an example for his children, who were regaled with stories about how he washed dishes in college to earn spending money. Of course, he always made sure his job was in the cafeteria of the women's dorm.

During his successful 40-year career at the Panama Canal, he reached the highest executive levels, and on December 30, 1999, was the last American to retire before the Canal transfer during the final meeting of the binational Board of Directors.

He was a man of peace who knew how to build bridges between Panama and the United States during critical historical moments. One of his greatest professional contributions was designing and executing the plan to professionalize Panama Canal security in the 1980s, in the context of a terrible military dictatorship that controlled Panama while American presence was retreating. Having industrial security personnel rather than military forces to look after the canal was a factor that gave the world confidence that Panama was ready to take over the waterway.

Charlie was also a military man. He completed his military higher education at the Command and General Staff College in Washington, which grooms officers for senior

leadership. During his career, he served in numerous Southern Command missions and held the position of Commander of the U.S. Army Reserve Unit in Panama.

In addition to his professional and military expertise, being fully bilingual was instrumental in his being commissioned to assist efforts to resolve guerrilla conflicts in the late 1970s and early 1980s in Nicaragua, Honduras, Peru, and other countries in the region. He led missions to reestablish political-military relationships in several South American countries during that period. During the Noriega dictatorship and beyond, Charlie was the Canal Administrator's Special Military Liaison for political-military issues pertaining to Panama Canal Treaty Implementation. After Operation Just Cause, he participated in the restoration of democracy in Panama as head of Civilian-Military operations. Throughout his career, he received many recognitions, and after 20 years of the U.S. Army Reserve Service, he retired with the rank of Colonel. Charlie was also a history buff. He had a prodigious memory and remembered details, names, and historical dates with astonishing ease. His love of history led him to write several works, some published, that documented important aspects of both U.S. and Panamanian history. He wrote and published the history of the security and defense of the Panama Canal, which is in some of the most important libraries in the world, and was interviewed as an expert source in several historical documentaries.

He also researched, documented and published the History of Nueva Gorgona, the magical place that saw his children grow up under his fatherly protection in the family beach house, and which is named after the Chagres River town that was relocated when Gatun Lake was flooded to create the Panama Canal.

He was a member of the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs in Panama and of the Elks Club in the Canal Zone. He coached Little League baseball and youth football. He was a man of the sea. A fisherman and a gardener. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

He taught his children the value of duty, honesty, hard work, and simplicity. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, always ready to spend time with his grandchildren, take them out for hamburgers, and proudly standing beside them for countless graduations and events, from preschool to Master's degrees. With him, his children learned to treasure time together as a family.

Until his last moments, he remained cheerful, generous, and uncomplicated. Despite the honors, ranks, titles, and recognitions bestowed upon him in life, he was always a humble, unpretentious man.

He was a man of faith who dedicated his life to building, brick by brick, the legacy of love that strengthens the Morris family today.

His wife Julieta, his children Mercedes, Melissa, Melanie, and Charles Patrick, their spouses, and his ten grandchildren survive him in Panama, and his sister Margaret Elizabeth and husband Dan Hanesworth in Colorado. May he rest in peace.



Evelyn Joyce Zeeck Mundell, 91, passed away Monday morning, April 18, 2022, at the Walsh Healthcare Center.

Joyce was born on September 13, 1931, in Lamesa, Texas. When she was 18 months old, her parents moved to the Panama Canal Zone, where her father, Carl, worked as an electrician on Madden Dam and was a Control House Operator for the Pedro Miguel Locks. Joyce attended her first 12 years of school in the Canal Zone, except for a year and a half during World War II, when Carl sent the family back to Lamesa as a precaution against an attack on the canal.

As a kid, she enjoyed numerous school activities and clubs and excelled, particularly in the sport of swimming. Joyce competed in many national meets in the Canal Zone and the United States throughout middle and high school. She was an outdoor girl who enjoyed fishing, an occasional alligator hunt and going to the beach with friends and family. Joyce graduated from Balboa High School in May of 1949 in the Canal Zone and moved with her family back to Lamesa. She never returned and often stated, "I have no desire to see it other than how I remember it."

Joyce attended Colorado A&M, Ft. Collins, Colorado (Colorado State University), receiving a bachelor of science degree in physical education in 1953. She traded long, strenuous swimming hours for western attire and rodeo club/equine activities and was named College Days Queen in 1951. She was an inaugural member of the Westernaires precision riding club that performed at the National Western Stock Show and other rodeo functions along the front range of Colorado. This club is still active today.

At A&M, Joyce met a rodeo team member and infrequent class attendee, Bill Mundell. They were married on July 21, 1953, in Lamesa. After Bill was honorably discharged from the Air Force, they moved to Bill's family ranch north of Walsh. By many accounts, it was a bleak beginning. They were married for 68 years.

In the '60s, Joyce taught girls physical education (there was no mixed physical education in those days) for seven years at Walsh and developed competitive intramural teams in field hockey, basketball, volleyball, and archery, to name a few. This was before Title IX and organized competitive sports for women. She loved taking "her girls" up to Lamar for the annual sports days for the area southeast Colorado schools, which offered the girls a day or two of competition. She often proclaimed proudly, "We held our own!" and was so proud of their efforts and accomplishments and the competitive athletic program development for women.

In 1968 she took a year's leave to pursue a Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling from West Texas State University, Canyon, Texas (now West Texas A&M). Joyce graduated West Texas State University in May, 1969. She served as the guidance counselor at Walsh High School from

1969 until her retirement in 1986. She helped many Walsh and Baca County youths with academics, college scholarships, and general life direction. She loved seeing kids overcome obstacles to achieve their goals and dreams. It did her heart good.

She took the early retirement option to be with and assist her husband Bill out at the ranch. She was a meticulous yard keeper/gardener and was constantly engaged with lawn care, flowers, her garden on the hill, and the general appearance of the place. She specialized in pickled beets, hot dill pickles and okra, green onions, jellies, and jams. She loved those jellies and jams, and most guests were offered, if not forced to take a jar or two.

It seems she was always mowing and went through many a John Deere riding mower. Her efforts saved the current ranch house when the Badger Hole Fire of 2018 had to detour around the house since she had combustibles mowed down to a short stubble. She was never "badgered" about mowing again. She was happiest maintaining and improving her home out on Horse Creek.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Grover William (Bill) Mundell, and her parents, Carl and Christine Zeeck.

Joyce is survived by brothers Richard Zeeck (Vivian), Albuquerque, N.M., and Charles Zeeck (Vieta) of Lubbock, Texas; sons Joe Mundell (Darla), of Lamar, Colo., and Don Mundell (Sue), of Springfield, Colo.; grandchildren Blake Mundell, of Nashville, Tenn., Mandi Mundell, of Walsenburg, Colo., Justina Mundell, of Fowler, Colo., Kelly Mundell, of Amarillo, Texas; great-grandchild Kaysen Sporcich, of Walsenburg, Colo.; numerous nieces and nephews.

Joyce was fortunate to live a long productive life, full of many friends, laughs, and memories. She strived to make a difference in people's lives as she could. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and a helping friend to many who knew her. She did her best, her race has been run, and we will miss her!



Fernando Ostrea Jr., of Cary, North Carolina, and former resident of Matthews, N.C., passed away on September 15, 2022, after a six-year battle with Alzheimer's.

Fernando was born in the Panama Canal Zone on June 22, 1949, to Fernando Ostrea, Sr. and Adela Ferrer Ostrea. He graduated from Balboa High School in the class of 1967.

After graduating from the University of Houston, Texas, Fernando began his career with Owens Corning in Gainesville, Fla. He then transferred to Jackson, Tenn., and Amarillo, Texas. He joined the International Division of Owens Corning in Miami, Fla. His last place of employment was with ABC Supply of Charlotte, N.C.

Fernando loved playing golf, traveling to the North Carolina mountains, and being with his family. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Fernando is survived by his wife, Karen Ostera, and his children, Gina Gaster (Brady), of Sammamish, Wash., and

Anthony Ostrea, of Durham, N.C., and two grandsons, Gabriel and Lucas Gaster.



Jack M. Ruoff was born in Jefferson City, Missouri, in 1931. He peacefully passed on May 15, 2022, at age 91. Albert and Faye were his parents. Bill and Betty were his siblings.

As a young boy, he liked to break porch light bulbs and put sticks through the steering wheels of cars so that the horn would stay on. He said he never got caught. A childhood highlight for him was swimming in the creek with his buddies.

Jack moved down to the Panama Canal Zone with his parents in 1946. His dad had a job as a canal machinist. He met his future wife, Margaret (Margie) Rathgeber, at the Tivoli

Hotel through mutual friends.

His passion was sports. His dream was to become a professional basketball player. His nickname was "Jumping Jack." Jack played football, ran track, pole vaulted, and played basketball for Balboa High School. He was the football captain. The coaches didn't let him play baseball because he was needed on the track. In later years, Jack coached little league football.

Memories of his High School were attending all the dances and hanging out at the Atlas Beer Garden in Panama City. He graduated in 1949 and then attended the University of Oklahoma for one year before joining the Air Force, where he got his FAA Control Tower Operator's license. Jack was stationed at Albrook Air Force base during the Korean War. A highlight for him was talking to Groucho Marx on the radio.

Margie purchased a new burgundy Chevy in 1951. The joke has always been that Jack fell for Margie because of her car. In 1953 they got married in the Lutheran Church in Balboa. The two returned to Oklahoma, where Jack continued college using the GI Bill. He majored in Business Administration. In 1958, the Panama Canal Company hired him as a paid intern when he took the family back to the Canal Zone.

The Ruoffs raised their three daughters, Gena, Sheryl, and Diane (Didi), in France Field. To support the girls' interests, Jack helped with the Ft. Randolph horse shows and the Ann Downing dancing recitals.

Jack retired in 1981 from the Transportation and Terminals Bureau of the Panama Canal Company. His career did not stop there as he continued to work for Lykes Line Steamship, Ryan Walsh Stevedoring, and the University of Houston. He was 62 years young when he "officially retired."

Jack liked golf, deep sea fishing, snorkeling, sailing, beer, martinis, and a good cigar. He will be missed.



Nancy Van Siclen passed away unexpectedly after a short hospital stay on October 12, 2022.

Nancy was born April 19, 1945, in Yonkers, New York, and spent the first part of her career at Mobil Oil in New York City. It was there that she met her husband, Bob Van Siclen.

Upon "retirement," Bob and Nancy relocated to Largo, Florida, where they quickly became involved with the Panama Canal Society and the Lake Seminole Homeowners Association.

Nancy came to the Panama Canal Society through her husband and Past President, Bob Van Siclen. From the start, our New York native Nancy jumped in with both feet, helping as one of the hostesses at our monthly meetings at St. Bede's and assistant secretary in the mid-1980s.

Nancy then served as Registration Chair at what turned out to be the largest Reunion ever when the Reunion moved from Tampa to Orlando. Nancy continued serving the Panama Canal Society as Reunion Registration Chair, Luncheon Chair, Vendor Chair, and Lodging Chair.

Besides the Reunion, Nancy served on the Executive Board as Director (a few times), was the Office Manager from 2000-2014, and was the Reunion Lodging co-chairperson for the last few years. Nancy was also the proofreader for the *Canal Record*. A tedious job but one she enjoyed. Nancy was also Treasurer of the original Panama Canal Society Foundation/Museum.

Nancy received numerous awards recognizing her outstanding service to the Panama Canal Society, including her most treasured - Office Manager Emeritus. Nancy truly loved her work with the Panama Canal Society. Working with the members, talking with members prior to reunions, and seeing everyone at the Reunion were among the best times of her life.

Nancy finally made it to Panama in 2011 after winning one of the Annual Meeting grand prizes. She was able to see in person what she had heard about for so many years from her husband, Bob, and from so many of our members. It was a whirlwind trip where Nancy was constantly on the go, including an excursion to El Valle, Old Panama, a treasured visit to Reprosa, a walk on the center wall of the Locks as well as sitting in the Administrator's chair in the Panama Canal Administration Boardroom. She loved and treasured every minute.

Nancy was preceded in death by her husband, Bob Van Siclen, her parents, and her niece, Susan Daley. She is survived by her sister, Gail Straub, and her husband, John; her nephew Michael, his wife Heather, their sons Riley and Drew and great-nephew Scott Daley, his fiancé Haley, and their daughter Adalynn.