

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.



Phyllis Ann Phillips Bertrand, 83, of Sanford, Florida, passed away on August 2, 2020, due to congestive heart failure.

Phyllis was born on February 12, 1937, in Ancon, Canal Zone in Panama, where her parents Lancen Lee Phillips and Sarah Elizabeth Joyner Philips were stationed with the Army. She attended Ancon

Elementary School, Balboa Junior High School and graduated from High School in 1955.

Phyllis and her family were repatriated to the United States when her father retired to Sanford, Fla. Once there, she met a handsome Marine, Raymond Bertrand. Phyllis began married life as a military bride in New Port Beach, Calif. She and Ray had four children. Son Raymond Jr. was born in Calif., and then the Bertrand's left the military for civilian life in Illinois where Elizabeth Rose, Teresa Ann, and Jean Marie were born.

While living in Illinois, tragedy struck, and a car accident left Ray a quadriplegic. Deciding to seek a warmer location, the family returned to Sanford, where she took care of Ray until he passed away. Phyllis and Ray had celebrated over 50 years of marriage.

She is predeceased by her parents Lancen and Sarah (Bessie) Phillips; and siblings Bessie Lee (Babe Heilman), Ethel Jean (Kabacy), Henry Lee, and Phyllis Ann.

Phyllis is survived by her children Raymond Bertrand (Carol Shelton), Liz Lawson (Gary), Teresa Werner (Rick), and Jean. Phyllis has nine grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. She was devoted to her family and will be missed by many nieces and cousins from the Joyner clan. Due to the Coronavirus, there has not been a funeral mass and celebration of life for Phyllis, but we as a family know she is resting in the arms of our Lord.



Harry Chan, Jr. passed away on January 23, 2021, in Norman, Oklahoma. On August 9, 1924, he was born in Gorgas Hospital, in the Panama Canal Zone, to Harry Chan, Sr. and Rose Chan. He graduated from Balboa High School, Class of 1942. He attended Canal Zone College and then the University of Michigan, graduating with a degree in Engineering. He returned home and went to work for the Fuerza Y Luz (Power and Light) Company.

Harry met Thelma Oyler, who was a nurse working with Harry's sister, Betty. Harry and Thelma were mar-



ried in the Margarita Union Church. Together they raised two sons, Bruce and Jim. In 1972, shortly before the government of Panama nationalized the Fuerza Y Luz Company, Harry went to work for the Panama Canal Company. He worked various assignments in the Maintenance and Locks Divisions, retiring in 1986. He and Thelma made Austin, Texas their retirement home, where they enjoyed the fellowship and camaraderie of many wonderful friends from the Canal Zone. They also enjoyed traveling, visiting friends and relatives everywhere their sojourns took them. Harry's other passion was being a faithful fan of the Michigan Wolverines. After Thelma passed away in 2008, Harry moved to Norman, Okla., where he was able to watch his grandkids grow up. He enjoyed seeing all of their school, sports, theater, and dance events. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Harry was preceded in death by his parents, Rose and Harry Chan, Sr.; his sisters Irene Paulding, Betty Snow, and Beverly Williams; his wife, Thelma Chan; and his son, Jim Chan.

He is survived by his sister, Doris Etchberger, of Dothan, Ala.; his son, Bruce Chan and his wife, Sharon Chan, of Norman, Okla.; his grandchildren, Rachel Chan and Ryan Chan; and numerous nieces and nephews.



Gilbert Brian Corrigan, Sr., age 60, passed away on March 19, 2021, at AdventHealth in Merriam, Kansas. He was born at Coco Solo Hospital in the Canal Zone, Panama, on January 17, 1961. Gil grew up in the Canal Zone and graduated from Balboa High School, class of 1979. He served proudly in the U.S. Navy for six years and lived most of his adult life in Overland Park, Kansas.

Gil was well-known for his art of cooking. He worked many years at Tanner's, the American Cafe, KC Masterpiece, and Jack Stack BBQ. He loved playing and watching golf and was a devoted fan of the Minnesota Vikings professional football team. Gil was a long-time member of the Panama Canal Society.

He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Cheryl Lynn Windes Corrigan; two sons, Gilbert Brian Corrigan, Jr., and Andrew Harrison Corrigan of Overland Park, Kansas; his mother and stepfather, Carol and Burt Mead, Tallahassee, Fla.; his father and stepmother Larry and Didi Corrigan, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.; brother, David G. (Marcy) Corrigan, Clearwater, Fla.; stepbrothers, Rick (Maria) Mead, Tallahassee, Fla., and Keith (Cindy) Mead, Tallahassee, Fla.; sister, Lisa Corrigan, Homosassa, Fla.; nieces, Darien Corrigan, Tara Turner, Brianna Mead, and Kelsey Mead; nephews, Chase Mead, and Dakota Mead; and Sue Corrigan, Homosassa, Fla.



Emelina (Emi) Schmidt Dover, 92, died of natural causes in Etowah, North Carolina, on August 2, 2020. She was born to Max Schmidt and Isabel Mata in Ancon, Canal Zone, on April 27, 1928. She graduated from Balboa High School in 1947.

Emi was employed by the Panama Canal Company Information Office and later by the 15th Naval District at Fort Amador. After her retirement, she moved to Etowah, N.C., with her husband, Jack Dover. Emi and Jack traveled extensively around the country for the Society of Seniors Amateur Golf events.

She is survived by her husband, Jack Dover of Hendersonville, N.C.; and her sons, Thomas A. Frensley, Jr., of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Edward Frensley of Panama, and Richard Frensley of Daytona Beach, Fla.



Katrina Denise Dunn passed away at the age of 49 on April 23, 2021. Katrina (Trina) was born on February 19, 1972, in the Canal Zone in Panama, Central America. Trina graduated from Balboa High School class of 1990 and received her Associate Degree from Asheville Buncombe Tech in 1992. She worked as a medical coder at Blue Ridge Medical Center during her career.

From an early age, she was brave, curious, and adventurous – from trips across the one-lane Gamboa Bridge to jumping into crocodile-infested waters at the mouth of the Chagres River, to saving a young boy's life from drowning, to being a huge animal lover and playing kick-the-can with her older brother. She was an avid reader who loved mystery and crime stories and excelled in school. Despite many years of health issues, Katrina never lost her sweet spirit and joy for life.

Katrina is survived by her mother Priscilla Dunn; brother Randy Dunn; her sons Robert Williams and Xavier Dunn; granddaughter Armani Williams; and a vast extended family and many wonderful friends.



John I. Frank, Jr., age 86, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on April 19, 1933, to John I., Sr. and Betty Frank. He went to live with his father in Old Cristobal at the age of 13. Picking green mangoes and having a titi monkey for a pet was an eye-opener of living in the tropics.

He lived for weeks at a time in the San Blas Islands at a PanAm station with the Pastor and his wife. He made friends with the Indians, and

especially one called Roy Rogers. They fished and sailed in Roy's cayuco, where he learned to spear lobster from the cayuco.

In 1952 - 1955 he served in the US Marine Corps during the Korean War with an honorable discharge. His cousin, Tom, talked him into attending a teacher's college in Shippensburg, Az., where he graduated as a Special Education teacher three years later. He was offered a great job, but Panama's tropical lure brought him back to the Canal Zone.

He began his 28-year career as a Federal employee of the Canal Zone Police Division. After 12 years, he transferred to the Marine Bureau as a Boarding Officer and loved meeting people transiting the Canal from all over the world. He retired in 1990 as an Admeasurer for the Panama Canal Commission.

He loved to free-dive in both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans for fish and lobsters. He knew every rock and ledge that hid lobsters and a "super-secret" spot for fish. John traded headed shrimp off the shrimp boats with cigarettes, beer, etc. Some of his highlights were Marlin fishing in the Pearl Islands. He got three more years until Sandy retired from Systems Division to skin dive to his heart's content and loved every second of it.

John and Sandy retired to Port St Lucie, Fla. A few months later, at a Seafood Festival in Jensen Beach, we learned that John was a legend. Standing beside some guys talking about fishing, John joined in. Eventually, they asked where he was from, and John said, "Panama Canal." One guy piped up and said he only knew a name from there. John asked him what name, and he said, "John Frank." They were taken aback when John said he was John Frank. Apparently, they heard stories about John and said, "You're a legend back there!" One of highlights of John's life was diving in the Keys with his Canal Zone buddies, in Angel's boat, during the Lobster Mini Season in July.

John was very generous to his family and friends. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Sandra (Lowe) Frank; daughter Patricia (Richard) North; sons John (Anna Sanclement) Frank, and Clifton Frank; grandchildren Emma, Maia, and Anthony Frank. He was preceded in death by his parents John I. Sr. and Betty Frank, his sister, Mary, and two half-sisters. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Memorial services were held January 10, 2020, at St Lucie Catholic Church with a Mass, a Marine Corps gun salute, and presentation of a flag. Friends gathered to tell stories and celebrate John's life.



Alice Baggott Gundlach, passed away peacefully on March 25, 2021, in Jacksonville, Fla., after a battle with cancer and dementia.

Born on November 25, 1949, she lived in Curundu, Canal Zone. Alice graduated with high honors from Balboa High School class of 1967. She was active in the Rainbow Girls and many organizations in high school.

Alice attended and graduated from



Florida Atlantic University. She became one of Duval county's most honored and awarded teacher in Jacksonville. Her students respected and loved her and would seek her guidance and tutoring for college. Alice was admired and loved by all she touched with her great heart.

She is preceded in death by her father and mother, Frank and Henrietta Baggott Sr.; brothers Frank Baggott Jr. and Arthur Baggott; and sister Maxine Marten. Alice is survived by her brother Robert Baggott and lifelong friend Bebe (Holmes) Daniel.



Cody Jordan Hollowell passed away on February 19, 2021 at his home in Yulee, Florida. Cody would probably like one to think that he went out on one last fishing trip, but, in reality, he went to join Our Savior, family and friends in the big fishing tournament in the sky.

Cody was born on January 26, 1943, in Ancon, Canal Zone and spent most of his youth on the Pacific side until his dad was transferred to the Atlantic side where he graduated from Cristobal High School in 1961. After high school, he joined the Navy and was stationed on the *USS Valley Forge*. Cody then returned to the Canal Zone and attended the Canal Zone College for a brief time until the riots of '64. He, subsequently, went to the States and enrolled at Okmulgee State Tech to graduate as a journeyman plumber. Cody worked as a union plumber around the US until the plumber's union went on strike, and he could not work in the States. He decided to take his sister, Tinker Hollowell Cooper and her son, Joe, home to Panama to visit their parents in 1972. Panama Canal Company offered him a job, so he accepted it and worked there until he retired on Dec. 31, 1999.

After working on both sides of the Isthmus, he moved to Orlando, Fla. to help his mother, Skippy Hollowell. Most would have described Cody as a quiet guy but he had a wry sense of humor. He was a gentle soul who would do anything for anyone. He will be missed by many. He was one of the kindest people one could ever meet.

Cody lived for fishing and would head out onto Gatun Lake after work with his fishing buddies, Sid Coffin and Mike Bell. The boat ramp was just a convenient roll down the hill from his house in Gatun or a short 20-minute drive to the Chagres River. His freezer had an endless supply of fish and lobster. He was a happy boy when he was fishing. Cody never missed the annual fishing events such as the Isla Grande Tournament or the White Beach Fishing Tournament. After he moved to the States, Cody put fishing in his rear-view mirror but would return to Panama every May to go fishing with his best fishing buddies, Sid Coffin, Gerry Laatz and Ed Stanford. He would return to Florida with an ice chest full of fish and the fish fries would start again.

Cody and his wife, Martha, were together for 25 years but

divorced about six years after moving to the US. She wanted to be with her two daughters and grandkids in Mexico and Cody didn't want to move to Mexico. They, however, remained on good terms and she would come to take care of him when he had an issue with his ankle. Cody eventually moved to Yulee, Fla. to be closer to his sister, who had moved to Jacksonville in 2005 and her family. Eric Ernest, who had always been such a good friend, lived not too far away. All the Zonians in the area would get together at Eric and Noreen's or Cody's or Tinker's for get-togethers. There's nothing more that Cody enjoyed than get-togethers with dear friends...eating, drinking, laughing and reminiscing the good old days of the paradise where we all grew up. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Cody was predeceased by his parents, Bill and Skippy Hollowell, his nephew, Joe Stephens and his cousins, Mike Crook, Lillian (Chick) Hirons and Virginia (Skeeter) Hirons. He is survived by his sister, Tinker Hollowell Cooper, niece, Gwen Kling, great-nephews, Jason Stephens and Joe Garner as well as his special 5-year-old, Karson, who is Jason's little boy. He is also survived by his cousins, Doug Crook and Phyllis Crook Fiore, Ann Hirons-Domenech and Sue Hirons-Ferhenbach, his ex-wife, Martha, daughters, Yenni and Solangei, grandkids, Daniel, Solangei and Sophia.



Marjorie B. Foscue King passed away peacefully on December 20, 2020, at the Springmoor Retirement Community in Raleigh, N.C. During her 100 years on earth, she touched many lives and was an inspiration to us all.

Born in Winton, Minnesota, on April 15, 1920, she was the daughter of Swedish immigrants, Carl and Ida Berglund. She grew up in Ely, Minnesota, a Scandinavian community where she and her older brother Larry spoke Swedish in the home until they started grade school. She was valedictorian in her high school class. In 1942, she graduated with distinction from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education.

After several years of teaching in Michigan and Wisconsin, Marjorie decided to see the world and, in 1946, accepted a teaching job in the Panama Canal Zone. There she met her husband, Macon Wayne (Pete) Foscue, an electrical engineer with the Panama Canal Company. They had two children, Wayne and Karin Lee. In 1965, Pete passed away at the age of 52. She continued to teach for over 30 years in the Canal Zone. Marjorie taught 1st and 2nd grades on the Pacific Side for 20 years, and then from 1966 until retirement, she was the remedial reading teacher and reading resource specialist at Curundu Junior High. She also furthered her own education with a Master's Degree in Education from East Carolina University (1969) and coursework towards a doctorate degree from the University of Missouri. In 1974, she married another Panama Canal employee, Robert W. King. Bob retired after 30 years of service in the Locks Division. In 1976 they lived in Hawaii until his death in 1985. Marjorie enjoyed

living in Hawaii but decided to move to Raleigh, N.C., in 1986 to be near her daughter and family. Her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren called her "Tutu," which is Hawaiian for grandmother.

After her move to Raleigh, Marjorie became very active in the community. She had many hobbies and interests, including crocheting baby caps for the newborn unit at Rex Hospital, volunteering at the N.C. Museum of Art, playing bridge, reading many books, and completing daily mind games (crossword, sudoku, word jumble, etc.). She was an active member of the White Memorial Presbyterian Church. In 2003, she moved to the Springmoor Life Care Retirement Community, where she met many wonderful friends and continued to live life to the fullest.

Marjorie always strove to help others succeed and touched many lives as a teacher and a friend. She never let life stop her from doing all the things she loved: adventure, education, and especially world travel. Her curiosity in the world began at an early age. During her high school years, she became pen pals with people from England, Estonia, France, Argentina, Norway, and South Africa, just to name a few. Over the years, she maintained her connection with her Swedish relatives and was very proud of her Swedish heritage. During her lifetime, she went to six of the seven continents (and at least 53 countries) and experienced life beyond her dreams.

Marjorie was known for her beautiful smile, welcoming nature, generosity, positive outlook on life, and unbreakable spirit. She was a classy lady who believed in always wearing lipstick and having beautiful manicures. She will be remembered most for being a devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend to all those whose lives she touched. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Marjorie's secrets to longevity are staying active, keeping your body and mind healthy, socializing with family and friends, maintaining a positive outlook on life no matter what you are dealt, being kind to others, and always smiling. She also believed in a kiss a day (Hershey's chocolate kisses)!

She is survived by her son, Wayne Foscue (Julia) of Lake Ridge, Va.; her daughter, Karin Long (Gil) of Raleigh, N.C.; her four grandchildren, Wendy Armstrong (Britton) of Midlothian, Va.; Macon Foscue (Maggie) of Charlotte, N.C.; Meredith Allen (John) of Raleigh, N.C.; and Amanda Long of Gothenburg, Sweden. Marjorie is also survived by four great-grandsons and one great-granddaughter.



Alfred "Al" LaPeter Jr., 93, of Winter Park, Florida, died Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021, at home under the watch of his loving family. Al was born Sept. 28, 1927, in the Bronx, New York, to Alfred LaPeter Sr. and Sylvia (Dragonetti) LaPeter.

He spent most of his youth in New York City, except for a short stint in Panama City, Panama, while his father worked there. At 17, Al joined the Navy and retired as a lieutenant after 28 years. He served during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. In

1962, he was on the aircraft carrier the *USS Wasp* off the coast of Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Al started roller skating in his teens and continued his love for it for the remainder of his life. He met his wife Pam while skating. They were married in 1982. He was an amateur radio operator (ham) for more than 50 years and a life member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association. Many of his friends were made through ham radio. Al volunteered every year at the ARRL Field Day. He was vigilant about checking in with the "net" every night. To honor his former father-in-law after he died, Al took his call sign, W2AS. Al enjoyed going to the pool; loved eating out, where he always was on a first-name basis with his favorite waiter or waitress; and especially loved the yearly cruises he took with Pam.

After retiring from the Navy, Al received a bachelor's and master's degree in business from Rollins College. After his military service, he began a second career in real estate and taught real estate courses into his 80s. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Al was predeceased by his wife Pam, and his daughters Marjorie and Michelle. He is survived by his son Brian; daughters Cherie Kennedy and Gina Kennedy; step-daughter Rene Lenaeus; grandchildren Lauren LaPeter, Coral Linnaeus, Brandon O'Neill, and Ryan O'Neill; and half-brothers Jimmy and Al LaPeter.



Douglas Gray MacLean, age 78, of Wayne and formerly of Nutley, N.J., passed away on February 20, 2021. His devoted wife, Hilda, stood by bravely in loving and comforting support at the time of his passing.

Doug was born in Ancon in the Panama Canal Zone, where his father, James, worked as an electrician for the Dredging Division that dredged the Panama Canal for the U.S. Government. He grew up in the small town of Gamboa in a home that was situated right alongside the Chagres River. With the exception of leaving Panama every other year for a government mandated three-month summer sabbatical, where Doug and his parents stayed with relatives in Point Pleasant, Garrison, N.Y., or with his childhood friend in Georgia, Doug spent the first nineteen years of his life in the Panama Canal Zone. He attended Balboa High School in the Panama Canal Zone and took a daily train ride from Gamboa, where he excelled in competitive swimming and was also a pitcher for the school's baseball team and point guard for the basketball team. After graduating in 1960, Doug attended Canal Zone Jr. College for a year. Soon after, his mother Jane (nee Gray) passed away and, when his father retired, he and Doug moved to Nutley, N.J.

Doug worked for the IRS for a couple of years and then enlisted in the United States Army, where he bravely served from 1964 to 1967, part of that time overseas in the Vietnam

War. For his military service, Doug was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. Upon returning to civilian life, he attended Rutgers University on the G.I. bill and earned his Bachelor's degree in Economics.

After graduating from college, Doug embarked upon a long, rewarding career in the insurance industry. During that time, he also had the pleasure of meeting a young woman named Margaret "Meg" Fitzgerald. They met through Margaret's sister Dora who was one of Doug's coworkers. Doug and Meg eventually married and enjoyed each other's love until her untimely passing in 1986.

Doug's favorite job was with SeaLand Container Shipping Company, where he was a maritime insurance claims adjuster. After the breakup of SeaLand, he worked for various other companies until fully retiring in 2006.

Dancing was an activity that was always sure to put a smile on Doug's handsome face. On the evening of New Year's Day in 1994, he ventured out to the Grand Chalet on Route 23 in Wayne for a night of fun. Dancing was much more enjoyable with someone else. Since, as the saying goes, "love dances in the freshness of the unknown," Doug took a chance and asked a sweet and sophisticated young lady named Hilda Paitz if she would like to join him on the floor as the live band played inspiring music. Much to his delight, she obliged, and, as they got to know each other more and more, they connected in many ways – so much so that they ultimately married on Friday, August 28, 1998, in a civil ceremony by the mayor of Wayne. Doug moved from his home in Nutley to join Hilda and he remained a Wayne resident for the rest of his life.

As much as Doug loved to dance, it would probably be safe to say that he loved playing golf even more. After all, who else owns four golf bags? He loved to get together with his buddies Leo Murray, Lou Leone, Jesse Hinton, and his brother-in-law Tom Lynch, to take in nine or eighteen holes at any of the three golf courses in Essex County, and later, when he moved to Wayne, at the Passaic County Golf Course. Doug couldn't get enough golf, as evidenced also by how much he enjoyed watching the game on television and reading any periodical he could find on the subject. Doug also was proud that he was among the few who can say they got a hole in one. He achieved this honor one year while on vacation in North Carolina with Meg and his brother-in-law Tom Lynch and his wife, Dora.

Doug was an avid reader and student of history. He especially enjoyed learning about World War II and watching disaster-theme shows, including explorations of sunken ships and air disasters. He was a dedicated member of the VFW Hall in Pompton Lakes, where he regularly attended meetings. He and Hilda loved to travel on cruises to Aruba, Cozumel, Bahamas, his favorite destination of Bermuda, and one time together to Panama through the locks of the Panama Canal so that he could show her where he spent his childhood.

Unfortunately, the events of 9/11 had a profound effect on Doug's health. His office was in very close proximity to the World Trade Center and, while he was able to get home that night, he breathed in a lot of the toxic air flume caused by the terrorist attack. In 2019, he developed cancer. Since then, his

beloved Hilda stood right by Doug's side as he fought the battle. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Doug had so many great qualities that will be dearly missed. He was easy-going, well-read, and his friends always spoke about what a great storyteller he was. He was very witty and liked to use puns, feeling that they were "Pun-Believablely" hilarious. He always said that his favorite movie of all time was Tunes of Glory but, from a pun point of view, his favorite movie was probably "It's a Punderful Life." Rest in peace, Douglas.

Douglas was the beloved husband of Hilda (nee Paitz), blessed in marriage for just over 22 years. He was the loving step-father of Alysia Vesley of Elmwood Park, Keith and wife Jungyun Vesley of Fair Lawn, and Amy Vesley of Morristown; adoring grandfather of Julia Vesley; dear brother-in-law of Dora Lynch of Spring Lake Heights; dear uncle of Thomas Lynch, Jr and wife Jillian, Ashley Lynch, and Elissa Tierney and husband Jason; great uncle of Avery, Logan, Finley, and Pierce; and dear cousin of Sylvia Meehan and husband Kerri of Garrison, N.Y. Doug was predeceased by his first wife, Margaret "Meg" (nee Fitzgerald) in 1986 and his brother-in-law Thomas Lynch in 2021.



Ann Gardner Mayles passed away peacefully on April 5, 2021, at Majestic Oaks Continuing Care Complex in John Knox Village of Central Florida.

She was born November 15, 1930, to the late Philip G. Nichols and Alice Paine Nichols in New London, Connecticut. Her father was stationed in the Panama Canal Zone in the late 1940s as Marine Superintendent of the Panama Canal. Ann graduated from Balboa High School in 1948. She met and fell in love with John D. Mayles, who had just returned from his enlistment in the British Army. John, too, had graduated from Balboa High School in 1944, as did her six children. They married in South Weymouth, Mass., in 1950 and returned to Panama, where they lived for 47 years before moving to Homosassa, Fla., and later to Orange City, Fla.

Ann was a loving stay-at-home mother to six children. She enjoyed sewing and made her bathing suits and many clothes for the family. Ann loved to go to the beach or the swimming pool on the weekends. She was a member of the British Aid Society, participating in many charitable activities around Panama City. For two years, she worked as a Kindergarten teacher's aide for the Department of Defense in the Canal Zone. Besides sewing, Ann had many hobbies she enjoyed. She loved playing bridge, gardening, making glass mosaics, creating flower arrangements, and painting, to name a few. Her home was always beautifully decorated and so warm and welcoming to her family and friends. Ann loved attending parties and hosting them as well. She was a very talented and creative cook. Her table was always beautifully set, and you always knew a great meal was about to be enjoyed. She was well-known for making fabulous cookies and the most delicious appetizers that found their way into many friends and family's recipe collections.

Ann's Goddaughter, Perrie Malcomson, wrote a loving tribute that the family found described Ann beautifully. "Her infectious laugh, her vibrant smile, her deep love, her outfits with great statement necklaces, her yummy recipes, and her hunt for fun flea market finds will always be how I remember her. She was the most loving godmother. When both, Ann and John, would come to visit my parents in Miami, it was laughter for days. These are some of my fondest memories. I know she will see the glory of God and her loved ones in Heaven. Ann's loving spirit will remain a legacy in all our hearts."

Christmas and Easter were special occasions in the Mayles household. Ann saw to it that there was a Christmas stocking at the end of our bed, even when we visited as adults. During Easter, we always received an individual Easter basket with lots of fun items. It became a tradition in each of our family's homes, celebrating the seasons with love, excitement, and joy.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Philip and Alice Nichols, her sister, Ellen Paine McClelland, and her brother-in-law, Robert McClelland. Ann also was preceded in death by two of her six children: John Bruce (42) and Pamela (48). They both passed away in Tucson, Arizona.

This lovely, gracious lady had the ability to make you feel special. Her sense of humor enriched all who knew her. Ann had a great zest for life. Everyone loved to hear her contagious laugh. She was a blessing to us all.

Ann is survived by her husband of 70 years, John D. Mayles, and four of her children: Lynn Mayles Patterson (David), William Brian Mayles (Gay Hope), Michael Kevin Mayles (Terri), Philip Andrew Mayles (April Hepler). Ann has eight grandsons: Jason Williams, Jonathan Mayles (Jillian), Andrew Mayles, Denys Mayles (Deanna), Matthew Mayles, Patrick Mayles, Andrew Arkwright, and Luke Mayles; and six great-grandchildren, Noah, Caleb, Olivia, Audrie, Maya, and Owen. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Jackie Glen "Jack" Pylant of Iuka, Mississippi, passed away on February 18, 2021. Two days earlier, he'd been out in his red truck in a historic winter snowstorm, helping neighbors who were stuck in the ice. Jack Pylant was that kind of man - larger than life, making an indelible impression on all who knew him.

Jack was born on August 26, 1931, on the family farm in Leachville, Ark., to Macey Elizabeth Meredith Pylant and Chancie Everett Pylant. Jack lived and worked all over the globe. His formative years were spent pulling cotton bolls, starting at the age of 4, with his first homemade pillowcase pick-sack scaled to his small size. After graduating from Childress High School in 1949, he left home at 19 to serve in the Air Force during the Korean war and then put himself through college on the GI Bill, earning a Bachelor's degree in Education at Arkansas State University. He then went on to earn a Master's Degree at

Northeast Missouri Teachers College. Jack worked his way West to Southern California in the early '60s, his self-described "salad days." He then worked abroad within the Department of Defense school system, teaching middle school science in Germany, Japan, and finally Panama, where he stayed until retiring in Iuka, Miss.

Jack could quote obscure authors, identify guns in a nanosecond, give little-known trivia about epic war battles, recommend a classic 1950s Film Noir movie, regale you about a thrilling fishing trip or being shot at by a gang of thugs while motorcycling. He was impassioned about his opinions. And happy to share them. No one could tell a tale like Jack. He could lay out intricate, detailed facts (or fiction) about the great and small. Jack's four-volume autobiographical anthology titled "*No One is Forcing You To Read This*" is full of anecdotes recounting his numerous escapades.

Along with "jungle-ing" in the wilds of Panama, boating, exploring, and camping, Jack was keen on all the arts throughout his life - some might even have called him a connoisseur, though he'd have quibbled with such a fancy word. He enjoyed painting, gardening, writing, and photography and even starred in the play, *The Rainmaker*. He cherished his pets, loved to read novels, war and travel memoirs, watch old Westerns, play Scrabble and poker, and eat good ol' country food, with Chinese food as a close second. He was a car enthusiast (with a weakness for Cadillacs), generous gift-giver, history aficionado, zealous Walmart customer, unapologetic atheist, a purchaser of off-color greeting cards, and most recently, a devoted fan of Trump. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

In later years, Jack discovered studying abroad via the Road Scholar elder hostels program, of which he attended over 123 trips, as he'd proudly tell you. He visited all the national parks and over 30 countries.

Jack never passed up the opportunity to brag about his "smart, beautiful & talented" granddaughters Ava and Shae, his beloved daughter, and Mark, the "best son-in-law a man could ask for [even if he is a Democrat!]." They were his pride.

Voraciously curious, Jack was an avid student of life with a passion - nay a lust - for lifelong learning. Along with teaching and adventuring, Jack was a pupil himself at over 19 colleges - UCLA, Penn State, Colorado State University, Indiana University, and The University of Hawaii to name a few. He was still, at 88, taking an acrylic art class and a film course in Florence, Ala., when the pandemic hit.

He was predeceased by his parents and his five siblings: Rudy Pylant, Billie Fern Pylant Garver, Max Pylant, Ira Pylant, and Ted Pylant. He is survived by his daughter, Heather Pylant, his son-in-law, Mark Williams, his two granddaughters Ava and Shae, of Boulder, Co.; and a plethora of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends (and a kindle of feral cats he kept fed outside).

Leo Von Shadeck, 83, loving husband and father, unexpectedly passed away on March 27, 2021.

Leo was the only child of Leonard Earl Shadeck and Helen Dorothy (Gamble) and was born in Williamsport, Penn., on August 12, 1937. After losing his mother to tuber-



culosis as a teenager, Leo joined the United States Marine Corps when he was 17 and served eight years between Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and the Panama Canal Zone. Once discharged, Leo began working for the Panama Canal Company as a towing locomotive operator, a heavy equipment operator and then became a structural ironworker. He retired from the Panama Canal Commission in 1980.

Leo was a busy man who proudly participated in many activities. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, he raced offshore powerboats in Panama and even won a few events. He always had an old Model T-bucket roadster sitting in the garage that he loved to tinker with throughout the years. He was a lifetime member of the B.P.O. Elks Lodge 1414 and served as Exalted Ruler for a period of time. In the late 1980s, Leo started traveling back and forth between Panama and Ocala, Florida, to build his Tri-Steel home, which he and Grace moved into in 1994. Leo was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Leo may have been a man of few words, but underneath his sometimes gruff Marine Corps personality was a charitable man who believed in God, gave his time, and always did the honorable thing. He joined the Marion County Homeland Security program and earned an "Eagle Eye" coin when he found a lost citizen in Marion Oaks. He and Grace served on the Marion County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), ready to respond when needed. Leo also volunteered for several years at Brother's Keeper, cooking and serving food to the homeless. More recently, as a member of the Knights of Columbus, Leo helped deliver backpacks of food for school-aged children to have on the weekends. Leo always wanted to lend a helping hand and did so whenever he could.

He leaves behind his wife of 51 years, Grace; daughters Rinska (Simon) Flores, Livia Chinae, and Karen (Jeremy) Young behind. He has six grandchildren: Darlene (Mark) Reed, Alexis (Jared) Brooks, Joshua Flores, Jillian Young, Jack Young; and four great-grandsons: Jacob Alt, Gabriel Reed, George Chinae III, and Michael Chinae. Leo was preceded in death by his grandson, George Chinae, Jr.



Gilbert "Gil" Monroe Smith, 88, passed away on February 24, 2021, in Clearwater, Florida. In his final days, he was surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Neptune City, N.J., on August 25, 1932, Gil moved to the Canal Zone with his parents and three brothers at a young age. He graduated from Cristobal High School, Class of 1952. Gil was drafted into the Army after high school in June 1953 and served two years in Germany. He met his future wife after he was honorably discharged from the Army in May 1955. Gil attended Monmouth College in New Jersey and graduated with a business degree in 1960. He returned to the Panama Canal Zone, where he and his fiance, Pauline "Sue" Pincus,

were married at the Holy Family Church in Margarita on July 16, 1960. They had two daughters, Linda and Julie, and three sons, Larry, Gilbert, and David, who all graduated from Balboa High School. Gil worked as an accountant for the Panama Canal Commission in the Administration Building until his retirement in December 1990. After Sue's retirement in 1991, they moved to Clearwater, Fla., to be close to their children.

Gil enjoyed many activities in his youth. He was known to be a superstar athlete in baseball, basketball, and football. During his years of fatherhood, Gil continued his love of sports, playing softball and coaching children in several Pacific Side Leagues. On weekends, he enjoyed meeting his friends at the Elks Club and playing in horseshoe tournaments. After moving to Clearwater, Gil could hardly wait to be eligible to play softball in the '60 and over' league. Being the "youngster" on the team, he played the entire game and was utilized as a "runner" for many of his teammates. Gil's weekly activities included going to the Tampa Bay Downs Horse Racing Track with his youngest son, David, and meeting up with his former Canal Zone friends to play golf. Those of you that knew Gil well are familiar with his passion and gift for telling jokes. He loved to tell his favorite penguin joke and didn't care whether you had already heard it or not! Gil was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Gil was preceded in death by Joseph and Teresa Smith (parents), Joe Smith (brother), Alice Pincus (mother-in-law), and Jared Smith (grandson). Family members surviving him include Sue Smith (wife of 60 years), Stan and Richie Smith (brothers), Linda Badger, Larry Smith, Julie McCullough, Gilbert Smith, and David Smith (children), as well as nine grandchildren and two great-granddaughters.



Col. Lane A. Thompson went to be with his Lord and Savior on March 15, 2021. Lane was born on September 26, 1940, in Colon, Panama. His parents worked in the Canal Zone, and he spent his youth in the beautiful tropics of Panama. He graduated from Balboa High School in 1959 and received his Associate's degree at the Canal Zone Junior College in 1961. Lane started

his 41-year federal civil service career in 1958, working as a student assistant doing summer jobs for the Panama Canal Zone.

Lane moved to California to attend the Northrop Institute of Technology in Inglewood, Calif. While visiting a Zonian friend in Phoenix, he went on a blind date and met Georgia. They married and moved to Culver City, California, where their daughter Marian Leanne was born. After graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Electronic Engineering, Lane joined the Air Force. After initial stations in Denver, Albuquerque, and a remote tour in Turkey, Lane was transferred to Eglin AFB in Fla. For the remainder of his career, Lane was either in Eglin or working out of Wright Patterson in Ohio.

In 1975, Lane changed his career from full-time Active-Duty Air Force to Civil Service plus Air Force Reserves. This

enabled him to build his dream home in Poquito Bayou, where the family still lives today. Lane was an active member of his community and church. He loved baseball and the ocean - playing baseball and scuba diving well into his adult life. Later, he turned that passion towards coaching as he coached many youth softball, baseball, and soccer teams over the years. At Wright Baptist Church, he practiced one of his greatest loves, teaching bible classes. Also, he participated in multiple mission trips to Haiti.

Lane is survived by his spouse Georgia; children Marian Leanne, Lane Russell, and Lance; grandchildren Kaylin, Moriah, Cole, and Abby; his sisters Celia and Carol; and his cat Danny. Lane is preceded in death by his parents Gordon and Marion; brother Carl; brother-in-law Edward Rick III; and cousin Francis Ann Clinton. The Celebration of Life for Lane will be on June 12, 2021, in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

the Columbia Restaurant. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Ethel A. Wich, 98, passed away on March 4, 2021. She was born on May 4, 1922, in Baltimore, Maryland, to the late Charles and Anna Sandmann.

While living in Maryland, Ethel was a member of the Eastern Star #101, Woodlawn Chapter in Baltimore. After relocating to Florida, she became a member of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, the Panama Canal Society and was a board member of the Nature Coast MD Club.

She is survived by two sons, James R. Wich and his wife Alicia of Culver City, Calif. and Richard W. Wich of Hernando, Fla.; two grand-

children, Maria Wich Wasserman and her husband Larry and Matthew Wich and his wife Vanessa; as well as three great-grandchildren, Alejandro Wasserman, Stephanie Wich, and Gabriella Wich. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, James F. Wich, four sisters: Virginia Lutz, Edith Senneseth, Falista Ruhl, and Dorothy Vain.



Capt. **Mercer Joyce Tyler**, 90, of Tampa, Florida, passed peacefully at home on April 15, 2021.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Miyoja Tyler, and many nieces and nephews. Mercer was a retired Panama Canal Pilot. He served in the

U.S. Army, was a Third Mate, Pittsburgh Steamship Division, on the Great Lakes, and was a Ships Pilot on the Panama Canal. He enjoyed the CAM meetings with fellow Pilots at

LOOKING BACK

1982 PACIFIC SIDE CO-ED VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



1982 Pacific side Co-Ed Volleyball championship team sponsored by Bose. (L-R) Bottom row: **Peggy Huff, Carlos Pinzon, Gale Huff, Nora Kemp.** Back row: **Dennis Huff, George Dany, Linda (Huff) Dany, Hugh Harvey, Lenny Huff, Rolando "Pulga" Ruiz.**