

## 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.



**Agnes (Aggie) M. Anderson, 99**, passed away peacefully at Rosecastle assisted living in Zephyrhills, Florida, on January 27, 2022. Aggie was born in Toronto, Canada, on August 31, 1922, to Fredrick and Agnes Atkinson. The Panama Canal Company employed her father in December 1927, and the family traveled to Panama in April 1928.

Aggie attended Ancon Elementary School, Pedro Miguel Elementary, Balboa Jr. High School, and Balboa High School. She graduated in June 1940 and was selected as the "BEST ALL-AROUND" female student.

Aggie and Norman C. Anderson were married in January 1943 in Gamboa, Canal Zone. She was a stay-at-home mom to raise their three children, Gary, Kenneth, and Marilyn. In 1960 Aggie began her career working at US Naval Station, Rodman, Canal Zone, later transferring to HQ USARCARIB, Ft Amador, Canal Zone. She held various positions and received many letters of appreciation and outstanding performance certificates. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society

In December 1976, Aggie resigned from her job to join her husband in retirement to Boca Raton, Fla. They enjoyed many wonderful years together, traveling, playing golf, dancing, and having fun. She even had a hole in one.

Aggie moved to Zephyrhills, Fla., in December 1998 after her husband had passed away. She met many new friends and enjoyed lots of activities in Lake Bernadette. In January 2020, at the age of 97, she decided to move to an assisted living facility. The staff at Rosecastle loved her dearly and gave her wonderful care and support.

She was predeceased by her husband Norman Anderson, son Kenneth Anderson, her parents, sister Catherine Atkinson Larsen and brother Fredrick Atkinson. The same day Aggie passed, January 27, 2022, her grandson Kevin Michael Anderson also passed away.

She is survived by her son Gary (Ellen) Anderson; daughter Marilyn (Jim) Lyttle. Her beloved grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren fondly remember her as their "Jama." May she rest in peace after living a long, loving, and fulfilling life.



**Kevin Michael Anderson** passed away unexpectedly on January 27, 2022, in Brooksville, Florida, with his family by his side.

Kevin was born in Ancon, Canal Zone, on June 28, 1964, to Gary and Gelena (Putaturo) Anderson. He grew up in the Canal Zone and graduated from Balboa High School in



1983, and attended Canal Zone Junior College and the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida.

He loved sports; football, baseball, golf, paddling in the Cayuco races, swimming, snowboarding, bicycling, riding a motorcycle, and then riding a dirt bike.

In May of 1989, Kevin joined the US Coast Guard and was stationed in the District of Columbia area serving in the Coast Guard Honor Guard. While stationed there, he met his wife, Tracey. Their three children, Ryan, Sarah, and Anna, were born during his many different assignments in the Coast Guard. Kevin served ten years of active duty and was honorably discharged to move on and work for Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection in the Air and Marine Unit. He stayed in the Coast Guard Reserves and retired from the Reserves with 26 years of service. On July 31, 2021, he retired from Customs and Border Protection with 20+ years of service.

Kevin is predeceased by his son Ryan Anderson. He is survived by his wife, Tracey Anderson; daughters Sarah and Anna; granddaughter Paisley; parents Gary and Ellen Anderson and Eleanor Gelena Bailey; brothers Michael (Kristy) Anderson and Steve Mallia; sisters Chrissy (Jeff) Wilder and Carrie Rice. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



**Luis Roberto Celerier Azcárraga, 89**, passed away peacefully on March 2, 2022, at his home in Longview, Texas. Louie, as he was known to many, was born on May 13, 1932, in Panama City, to Louis Celerier and Blanca Azcárraga Celerier.



Louie grew up in a small house on what is now Via Porras, near Via España in Panama City. He lived next door to his maternal grandmother ("Mami") and near many others in the Azcárraga family. Louie remembered that "Mami's" "house was the only one with a telephone so, when calls came for other family members, the maids and all the kids would join in shouting for the desired person who would live in another of the houses on the block. Mami's house was also the center of

the family's universe, and a great many happy times were spent there. On weekends, there always seemed to be something going on. The piano my mother bought for [her polio-stricken brother and Louie's uncle] Lucho when he was a

young boy was also upstairs, and Lucho would sometimes give us a treat by playing for all.”

Louie remembered his backyard as “A Magical Place,” where he played with his cousins: “We went to India as Bengal Lancers, fought Arabs with Beau Geste, charged with the Light Brigade, fought off pirates, rode with the best cowboys of the time, helped Robin Hood, swung from branches with Tarzan, put up stiff resistance to the Japs in Wake and Battan and overwhelmed the Germans in North Africa. We made forts, dug foxholes, built tree houses, and splashed in the rains.” Louie and one cousin “would imitate our cowboy heroes . . . we did not know English at this early age and would only imitate the sounds we heard at the movies. For “stick them up,” we would say “stickymoo,” and for “hands up,” it was “hansoop.” Despite our lack of English, we still did a good job fighting off the Indians and the bad guys.”

“Another pastime, at least until the war started, was to go to the Canal Zone on Sundays. When the trolleys still ran, we could catch it a block from our house and ride it to Balboa, La Boca, and back. Other times, we would get off at Plaza Cinco de Mayo, where the train station was, and walk up Ancon Boulevard to the Administration Building, returning by Heights Road and Gorgas Road. There used to be a small zoo at Plaza de Lesseps near the train station, across from the Tivoli, and that was also an interesting place to visit, as was the train station with its steam locomotives.”

School started for Louie in 1938 at the Colegio de La Salle in Panama City. Originally, this school had been run by the French Christian Brothers, of which his father had been one until 1926. Shortly after entering fifth grade, Louie contracted an intestinal infection. “In those days, there were no antibiotics as we have today,” Louie recalled, and “By the time the infection had been controlled, too much time had passed, and I was unable to go back to school and catch up with the others. My parents decided that, instead, I would be placed in an American school in the Canal Zone so that I would learn English.” Louie was accepted in 1943 but placed in the third grade, a few years behind his age level. Over time he skipped the sixth and eighth grades and made it to Balboa High School.

Louie wrote in his memoirs that while in the 9th grade, “the announcement was made that a Junior ROTC Unit would be formed at Balboa High School the following year, and all male students were given the opportunity to enlist. I still recall the excitement that ran out throughout the school, the signing of the forms to join and being measured for the uniforms. The whole school was buzzing with the news, and I could hardly wait for the school to end so we could get started on the new year.”

In 1951, like many of his cousins in previous and later years, Louie graduated from Balboa High School. His “Zonian” yearbook page described him as “An ambitious and hard-working fellow,” foretelling a full, enterprising life. Louie wrote: “I feel that my life was greatly influenced by the wonderful training I received from ROTC as well as from those great and dedicated academic teachers we had at Balboa High School.”

Louie went to the U.S. to attend college at Texas A&M University, graduating in 1955. He then returned to Panama, anticipating being hired as an Admeasurer with the Panama

Canal. “I was in for a shock. With the election of Eisenhower as President of the USA in 1952, the Canal Zone Government was ordered to reorganize as The Panama Canal Company. The PCC was to operate on the income from the tolls without any subsidy from the Federal Government. This meant drastic cuts were put into effect by the time I arrived, and job openings were not being filled, but rather eliminated through attrition.”

After several months of unsuccessfully seeking professional work in both Panama and the Canal Zone, Louie applied for a Green Card and returned to Texas to look for work. Although he had “several good leads,” he found that companies would not hire him “as soon as they found out I was not a citizen.” Eventually, he worked for a forerunner company of Axelson, Inc. in Longview, Texas, a manufacturer of equipment for the oil and gas industry, filling various positions for 40 years before retiring in January of 1996.

Louie had received resident alien status to live and work in the U.S. with an understanding that he would register with the Draft Board. Soon after starting work, Louie joined the Texas National Guard but was promptly drafted instead and ordered to report for duty on October 10, 1956, beginning his two-year service in the U.S. Army. During this period, Louie also met Etheleen Wallace from Henderson, Texas, and they were married on December 30, 1956. After a stint in Fort Belvoir, Virginia, Louie was re-assigned to Fort Clayton in the Canal Zone, where he arrived in the Summer of 1957. His new wife arrived in Panama on a September morning, on the same day that his cousin, Frank Azcárraga (BHS’ 52), married Angela Lee (BHS’ 56). “That evening, the four of us left for El Valle, arriving at night. Frank and Angela stayed across the road in Uncle David’s house, and Etheleen and I stayed at my parent’s house.” (Louie’s parents were El Valle pioneers, having purchased a lot there in 1940 for \$100, paid in six months, and built a house “piece by piece” for six years. “Since we did not own a car, we would travel by Chiva, packed like sardines.”)

Louie pledged alliance to the U.S. as a soldier, and again when he was granted Naturalization papers in 1962, proud moments in his life. He loved this country with the freedoms it offered, and he was an enthusiastic advocate of the right to express an opinion. He was a pilot and Cadet Program Officer with the U.S. Air Force Civil Air Patrol and a talented artist and photographer who enjoyed traveling in East Texas. One of his favorite retirement pastimes was meeting with friends for coffee and having lengthy discussions. He was an avid reader and prolific writer who studied Panamanian and Canal Zone history, publishing two books during his retirement years (many will be familiar with “*In Bits and Pieces*,” a voluminous collection of his articles about Panama and the Canal Zone). Louie’s many talents and impressive intellect, coupled with his caring and fun-loving personality, endeared him to many people of all ages and from all walks of life.

Luis loved his wonderful parents and his family and held a special spot in his heart for his five grandchildren, who became his post-retirement playmates. His “crew” battled pirates from the deck of the good ship “Sea Hawk,” an American-flagged play frigate that Louie commanded. Life was good to him, and he enjoyed all of it. His last statement was, “In saying good-bye to you, I want you to consider the

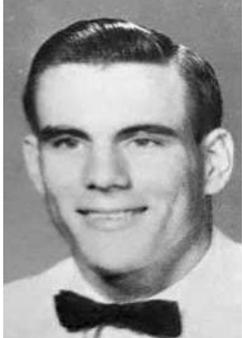
above and not mourn for me, but to rejoice, as I am joining God and all those loved ones who departed before me. I thank you for making my trip through life such an enjoyable one”.

Luis was preceded in death by his parents, Louis and Blanca Celerier, sister Mireille Erbe, and several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Luis is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Etheleen Wallace Celerier; son, Glenn Celerier and wife Annette; daughter, Annette Moore and husband Glenn; grandchildren, Joseph Moore (Annie), Andrew Moore (Dagny), Julia Marin (Bill), Alex Celerier (Crystal), Charles Celerier (Linda); and four great-grandchildren, as well as his niece and nephew, Lorraine and Richard Erbe (BHS’74). He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



**William (Bill) Rudolph Dockery** passed away on April 2, 2022. Bill was born in Margarita, Canal Zone, Panama, on January 11, 1945. He was the third child of Canal Zone residents Harry Sr. and Jean Dockery. His parents went on to have five more children totaling five boys and three girls. Their names in the order of oldest to youngest are Pauline (deceased), Patrick, Bill, Harry Jr. (deceased), Kathleen, Michael, Sylvia, and John.



Bill devoted his life to several passions. At a young age, he discovered fishing and sports. Bill played little league baseball and later Cristobal High School’s varsity baseball team. It was his preface to coaching his sons’ little league teams. His sons’ were inspired by his coaching to pursue their sports and be involved with their own children’s ambitions.

Bill was also on the varsity football and track teams. He ran the 440 in track and held the high school pole vaulting record of 11’15-1/2” for many years to the admiration of his young and upcoming rivals. Bill was proud of that pole vaulting record, especially all his preparations for the competitions.

Bill graduated from Cristobal High School, Canal Zone, in 1964. He joined the Air Force, which led him to the love of his life and partner, Patricia (Patty) Kuhn. Patty met Bill in 1966 while he was stationed in Bermuda. Patty was there celebrating her nursing degree. They fell madly in love and the happy couple married in June 1967. Their wedding was a glorious event for both families attending. Seeing Bill’s mom smiling while dancing with her favorite son on his wedding day was one of his happiest memories. Bill and Patty went on to have five beautifully talented children. Billy was their firstborn in 1970, Jeffory was born in 1971, and Timothy came in 1974. Then their first daughter, Judy, was born in 1977, followed by the baby of the family, Nancy, in 1980. Bill’s pride and joyous family was complete.

Throughout his lifetime, Bill loved visiting his parents

and cherished the times spent with his siblings. It was so much fun to have him come home because that meant fishing, eating great food, dancing, laughter, lots of hugs, and most of all, love. His mom, younger brother, John, and younger sister, Kathy, idealized Bill. He made you feel special. Early in his military service, Bill arranged a surprise visit to the Canal Zone unbeknownst to his mom and family. He walked into the house, found his mom, and asked her for a good home-cooked meal. His mom squealed with delight as she hugged and kissed her son.

Bill loved to travel. He and Patty traveled to Bermuda in 1968 to celebrate their anniversary, and they would return to celebrate their 20th anniversary. He took Patty to Panama shortly after they married, allowing his siblings to observe how much he and Patty were happy and in love.

In 1972, Bill left the military and took advantage of the G.I. benefits to finish his drafting degree. He worked odd jobs during his studies. Bill worked security jobs to catch shoplifters. Once he obtained his degree, Bill started his drafting career with several companies. It kept him traveling and working into his seventies. His jobs took him to the Philippines and Kuwait during the 1970s to inspect power plants to ensure they were built according to the engineering specifications. He traveled to many other countries, where he enjoyed interacting with the locals and experiencing the culture.

Throughout his working career, Bill developed lifelong friends that he would often meet over dinner to keep in touch. He bowled, played softball, and joined hunting clubs. Socializing with his teammates and friends reinforced his love of sports, which he passed down to his children. His children enjoyed Bill coaching their baseball teams and experiencing his passion for the outdoors. Bill taught his family how to hunt properly by preparing the area by cutting trees and setting up the hunting blinds and stands while maintaining patience. He taught them the proper use of firearms, musket loading, and the best ways to fish. Bill was a very patient hunter and fisherman, which was why he was so good at it. Bill’s motto was “catch more fish than anyone else fishing next to you.” He claimed his love of fishing came from his mother. We believe his mom was waiting for Bill in heaven with her favorite bamboo pole to take him fishing. One of his sons said, “He would also have to bag an elk as well.” The family immediately responded, “There will be no killing elk in heaven.”

His passion was fishing with his mom, siblings, and children for trout, Chinese Grass Carp, and deep-sea fishing. Fishing with Bill meant fishing all day with no food, and no water; however, talking was permitted the whole time, because fish cannot hear. His younger brother, John, was one of his favorite fishing partners whenever Bill visited his mom. His brother, Michael, and Bill would go fishing whenever Michael came to New Jersey.

Family and fishing were a must in Bill’s life; however, his family always came first. He loved Patty, his children, and his grandchildren. Bill never missed an occasion to send flowers to his loved ones, especially Patty and his mom.

His children have fond memories of celebrating New Year’s Eve and beating pots and pans at midnight scaring the neighborhood. Bill helped his children with their paper

routes, especially Sundays. He would assist in folding the papers and drive around for his children to deliver the bulky Sunday news. He would discuss work issues, trying to share his own experiences to make his children successful individuals in life. Bill was a proud father.

When Bill's first grandchild, Darren, was born, he sent flowers to his daughter, Nancy, a first-time mother. When Darren came home from the hospital, Bill, the proud grandpa, took Darren around to his neighbors to introduce his newly born grandson.

Bill's son, Tim, played minor league baseball. Bill would attend Tim's games and cheer him on with a thumbs up for making a great play. After the games, Bill would hang out with Tim supporting his son's ambitions. Bill loved promoting his family.

Bill loved socializing, and every year, he would accompany his younger sister, Kathy, to the Panama Canal Society Reunions held in Florida. The both of them would laugh, dance, tell stories, and party with everyone they knew from the Canal Zone all night. Such bonding memories made hanging out with Bill so much fun and unforgettable. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Bill was devoted to his family. He escorted his 90-year-old mother to Panama for her last visit to her and his birthplace. Bill would later take his mom at 93 years old to visit with his older sister, Pauline, because his mom asked him to. Bill could never refuse his mother's requests. He was visiting with his mother when she passed away at 94. The family figured since Bill came to stay with his mother so often, she was waiting to see Bill so she could say one last goodbye to him. He often talked about his love for his mom and how much he missed her. Once Bill's children surprised him by bringing his parents to his home in New Jersey. He was overwhelmed at the sight of his mother and broke out in tears of joy. One of the best surprises his children pulled off. Bill was truly a loving man.

Bill and Patty would have celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary this year. Who says love can't last forever? Because it does. Bill and Patty were the proof of their love. He loved loving his family and being loved.

During the last days of his life, Bill had all his immediate family with him supporting Patty and trying to help ease Bill into the afterlife. While gathered in the hospice with all his siblings and Patty, his son, Billy, said it made him feel like a young child hanging out with his dad and mom. This was the expression of the family that Bill loved and cherished. It was a family experience that will always be fondly remembered.



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**Alfred James Graham**, 88, of Rome, Georgia, passed away Tuesday, March 22, 2022. Son of the late Alfred Robert and Winifred Margaret Luby Graham, Al was born in Brooklyn, New York, on April 4, 1933. Al and his mother came to the Panama Canal Zone on the PanAm China Clipper to join his father, who was employed by the Panama Canal Commission.

Al attended Ancon School, Balboa Junior High School, and Balboa High School, graduating in 1951. After graduation, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, serving until 1955. After his discharge, Al returned to the Canal Zone and was employed by the Pacific Locks as a security guard until 1962, when he entered the Panama Canal Apprentice Program. He graduated as an electrician in 1966 and went back to work on the Pacific Locks. On the Locks, Al was broken in on the locomotives (mules) and went to work as a Lock Operator Electrician. He worked his way up the ranks to Leader Electrician, Control House Operator, Junior Lockmaster, Senior Control House Operator, finally retiring as Electrical General Foreman for the Pedro Miguel Locks.

Throughout his life, Al was always active in community affairs. He was a charter member of AFGE Local 1780, the Locks Security Guard Union, and was later elected president. After graduating as an electrical worker, Al joined the IBEW 397 and was later elected president. He also served on the Panama Canal Apprentice Committee and was a life member of Elks Lodge 1414.

Al was later elected president of the Canal Zone Central Labor Union – Metal Trades Council AFL-CIO. During this time, Governor Harold Parfitt consented for Al to accept an appointment as Labor Advisor to the United States Treaty Team by United States President Jimmy Carter and AFL-CIO president George Meany, where he was assigned to the United States State Department. Al fulfilled his duties with the help of his wife, Mariette, who had served as president of the Canal Zone Nurses' Union. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Al retired from the Canal Zone in 1985 and moved to Macon, Georgia, Mariette's hometown. Retirement didn't suit him, and he went to work as Chief Engineer for Holiday Inn West, owned by the grandson of Holiday Inn founder Kimmons Wilson. He left Holiday Inn and went to work for Courtyard Marriott as Chief Engineer, retiring (for good) at age 70.

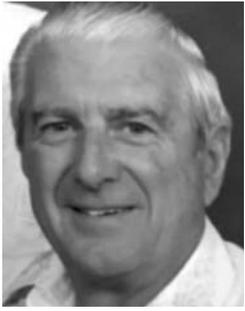
Al had two children, Anna and Al, Jr., with his first wife, Melva (Rodriguez) Comer, and one daughter, Rachel "Gigi," with Mariette. Al and Mariette celebrated forty years of marriage before pancreatic cancer stole her away from him in October 2017. After Mariette's death, Al moved to Rome, Georgia, with his daughter, Rachel, so that she could care for him in his old age.

Al was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Mariette; parents, Margaret Graham (nee Luby) and Alfred Robert Graham; and granddaughter, Lorraine Marie Graham. Al is survived by his children, Anna Maria Luby (Patrick), Alfred James Graham, Jr. (Rosa), and Rachel Margaret Graham; and granddaughter, Melissa Margot Graham; and nieces, Debra Russell (Wesley) and Michelle Butt.

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**Harold "Bud" Green**, age 89, passed away peacefully on January 12, 2022, surrounded by loved ones, including his surviving wife, Nelia Newlon Green, married since February 14, 1984. He was born on August 31, 1932, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Bertha and Harold Green, who both preceded him in death.

After graduating from John Bartram High School of



Philadelphia, he enlisted in the Navy in 1950. He enjoyed being a submariner on the USS Corporal. On July 7, 1954, he was honorably discharged in Key West, Florida. After this time, he attended the University of Miami in 1955 and married his first wife, Marie Fraser Green, in November of 1956, who preceded him in death in 1982. He shortly

thereafter transferred to Drexel Institute, graduating in 1966. He worked as a civil engineer for several government entities, including the Army Corp of Engineers, 1958, and the Jacksonville Corp, 1967.

In 1973 he transferred to Fort Clayton, Panama, and began his career with the Panama Canal Company. This birthed his dedication to the Panama Canal. Being passionate about politics, he was very active in advocating Congress the importance of keeping the canal in adherence to the Canal Zone Treaty.

One of his favorite pastimes was digging in the jungle with his family for buried colonial bottles, and he certainly had quite the collection! He retired in 1987 and moved to Tallahassee, Florida. Throughout his retirement years, Bud enjoyed relaxing in his backyard with his wife, Nelia, watching the squirrels and the birds. He also enjoyed gardening, woodworking, and volunteering numerous hours at Epiphany Lutheran Church, Habitat for Humanity, Good Shephard garage sales, and political campaigns. He is a member of the Panama Canal Society.

In addition to Neila Green, Bud is survived by his brother and wife Jack and Patti Green, his brother-in-law and wife, Andrew and Elizabeth Fraser, his daughter Andrea Green, and his daughter and husband Amy and Jeff Andrews and their daughter Stacey Andrews, his son and wife Lee and Kim Green and their three children, Lee "Buddy" and his wife Haley Green, Chad Green and Madison Green, his stepdaughter and husband Diana (Newlon) and Gene Rendon and their children and spouses Russell and Michelle Rendon, and Michelle and Jason Halvorsen, his stepdaughter and husband Karen (Newlon) and Jim Mullins and their children and spouses, Jamie and John Mullins-Foss, and Kaycee and Kevin Rump, and his stepdaughter Janice "Cookie" Newlon Hurney; plus ten great-grandchildren along with many nephews, nieces, and extended family.

In addition to Marie Fraser Green, Bud is preceded in death by his son, Curtis Green, his stepson, Doug Newlon, his stepson-in-law, Bill Hurney, and his brother-in-law, Joe Petitti. Bud wished to be brought back to the Canal Zone one final time to be forever a part of the place he loved the most.

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**Richard Henry Hebenstreit**, loving husband, and father of four children passed away peacefully on January 4, 2022, at age 96, with his wife of 75 years at his side.

Rich was born on May 31, 1925, in Chicago, Illinois, to Henry and Alma (Kappelgaard) Hebenstreit. He received his civil engineering degree from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana in 1946, and he worked for Sverdrup and Parcel for 42 years. On February 22, 1947, he married Honor

Frances Garstang. They raised two sons, Rick (Kathy) and David (Linda), and two daughters, Laura and Ann. He is survived by seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Rich had a successful civil and structural engineering career, managing many vital projects, including the Bridge of the Americas over the Panama Canal and the Fort McHenry Tunnel under Baltimore Bay. His lifelong passion for construction started in his teenage years and continued with the building and renovating his children's homes with every annual visit. Family camping vacations to state and national parks all over the country ignited a passion for nature in his offspring and fed his love of experiencing the great outdoors. He devoted years to becoming an expert bread baker, and his croissants were always the highlight of any family dinner.

Rich loved jazz, bird watching, fishing, photography, and golden retrievers, but most of all, he loved spending time at home with his family. His bird feeders were always full, and visitors were welcome at his lavish table. He was magnanimous with his skills, his hospitality, and his wit. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



**Ruby Jewell Gardner Howard** passed away on August 24, 2021, at age 99, at home with her son Danny at her side. On March 20, 1922, she was born in Fleming County, Kentucky and was the youngest of five children, and outlived all of her siblings. In 1945, Ruby married her

high school sweetheart Paul Eugene Howard. They moved to the Canal Zone in 1964, where Paul worked as an electrician and a lock locomotive ("mule") operator at the Miraflores and Pedro Miguel Locks. Paul and Ruby first lived on the ridge in Gamboa and later moved to Diablo. In 1951, their son, Danny Howard, was born.

When Paul retired in 1973, the Howards left the Canal Zone with many cherished memories and returned to Lexington, Kentucky. The Howard family described their years in the Canal Zone as the best era of their lives. In 1997, Paul and Ruby moved to California to be with their son Danny. After 63 happily married years, Ruby's husband Paul passed away in 2008.

Ruby loved flowers, a fitting passion because Ruby, like flowers, brought joy to those around her. Ruby was loved for her generosity and goodwill towards others. She was a pint-sized lady with a ton of grace and a good spirit. Ruby was all about love, honor, and commitment to others. Ruby's enthusiasm for travel was driven by her marvelous sense of adventure and love of meeting new people. She made lifelong friendships with people she met in her travels.

She will be loved forever and sorely missed by her survivors: son Danny Howard; grandchildren Jason Howard, Jessica Howard, and Nathan Michel; great-grandchildren Owen Meeks and Naomi Howard.

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**Jo Anne Sorrell Mathis**, 83, of Sacramento, California, passed away on April 9, 2022. Jo Anne was born June 4, 1938, in Sardis, Mississippi, to Charles and Louise Sorrell.



She was raised in the Canal Zone from the age of two living in Cocoli and Balboa. Jo Anne graduated from Balboa High School in 1956, where she was active in theatre, volleyball, synchronized swimming, and Rainbow Girls. Jo Anne spent one year at Canal Zone Jr. College, then went to Mississippi State College for Women, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Business Administration.



She had one daughter, Kathleen Louise, and was married to James Mathis, who had come to the Canal Zone to work for the U.S. Government Accountability Office

(GAO) out of New Orleans. They lived in Los Rios for 13 years and then in Balboa Heights. While in the Canal Zone, Jo Anne worked for the Claims Division. All who worked with her knew her for always having candy in her office, being a sharp businesswoman, and having fun at work.

After retiring in 1989, she and James settled in Gold River, a subdivision of Sacramento, Calif., where her parents, brother, daughter, and son-in-law, Paul, resided. Jo Anne enjoyed decorating her home in white and gold and entertaining. Together, they went on many cruises and vacations, with a favorite being Hawaii. Jo Anne loved the similarity to the Canal Zone and the shopping and beautiful beaches.

Their genuine love and joy came in 1992 when their only grandchild was born, Alexis Anne. That was also when "Mimi" was named. Alexis became the light of their lives, and they were always so proud of the young lady she was. They never missed an event from swim meets, birthday parties, and everything in between. Jo Anne, Kathy, and Paul would visit Alexis wherever she was living. Weekend trips became a favorite for all — Fresno State, University of Alabama, Long Beach, Reno and most recently, Palm Springs. Alexis married Michael Harris in June of 2018 and had their first child in 2020, Riley Rose. Mimi could not have been happier than to graduate to "Great Mimi!"

Jo Anne would be described by those who knew her as 'one in a million!' A woman who was intelligent, classy, thoughtful, fun to be around, and a lover of all sweets. Her competitive spirit came out when she played games, her favorites being cribbage with Jim and Monopoly with the family. All who met her would comment on her great style and love of sparkle. Jo Anne will be sorely missed, but her memory will forever live on. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



**Rosalinda Frances (née Reimann) Morris** of Clearwater Beach, Fla., departed this earth on February 11, 2022. She was born on October 6, 1935, in Chicago, Illinois, and was the middle of three daughters born to Francis and Carmen Campos de Jiménez Reimann.



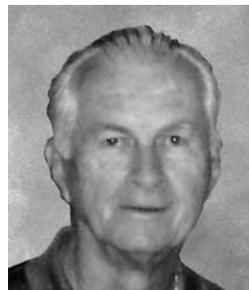
Linda met her late husband Wilfred Robert Morris (Bobby Mo) at Canal Zone College in 1954. The story is...that they locked eyes on the stairwell at school, and the rest was history! Their courtship continued in the United States while Linda attended DePaul University (B.A. in Political Science) and Bobby Mo attended Bradley University nearby. They were married at Sacred Heart Church in Ancon on August 22, 1959, and their reception was held at the popular Tivoli Hotel. While Bobby Mo served in the army at Ft. Dix in New Jersey, Linda was a teacher at a Parochial school. Their firstborn, Wilfred (Rob), was born in New Jersey, soon followed by Carlton, Bliss, and Victoria, all born in Gorgas Hospital.

Linda was a housewife and raised her family in Balboa. Two years after the Panama Canal Treaties were signed and implemented, they moved to Richardson, Texas, then to San Diego, California, and back to Plano, Texas. Linda started a career late in life, working as an Executive Housekeeper for many of the largest and best Hotels in Texas and California. She also worked for the IRS when they lived in California. When Bobby Mo passed away in 2017, Linda moved to Clearwater to be closer to family who lived in Florida.

Linda loved to travel and visited many countries around the world. She was a voracious reader and enjoyed listening to books on tape. She had a passion for writing and was the *Canal Record* Area Reporter for Texas and California for many years and the Reporter at Large for the last four years. Linda was an avid supporter and member of the Panama Canal Society.

Linda leaves behind four children; Wilfred Robert Morris Jr. (Barbara) of Helotes, Texas, Carlton Alan Morris, Coral Springs, Fla., Bliss Ann Huggins (Gary) Indian Rocks Beach, Fla. and Victoria Lynn Hall of Tequesta, Fla.; nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; sister Maria Alcalde Thomas, Los Angeles, Calif.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Margarita Gibbs and her beloved Bobby Mo.



**Donald Brett Morton** passed away on September 2, 2021, at Health First Hospice, Palm Bay, Florida, with his brother and nephew, Lee, by his side. Don was born in Colon, Panama, on December 22, 1934. He was raised in Panama, Canal Zone, along with his brother, Jack, and sister, Judy. Don had lots of friends, "everyone knowing everyone," and if you got into mischief (and he did), it was no secret!



Don was a great baseball pitcher in high school, graduating from Balboa High School in 1953. Upon graduation, he was recruited by the Brooklyn Dodgers; spring training

was at Vero Beach, Florida. While in Vero Beach, he met lovely Susan Atkin on March 30, 1954, and became engaged shortly after. His baseball career was short-lived, and he joined the Army. During Don's last few months in the Army, at Ft Bragg, N.C., he and Sue were married on March 21, 1956.

In 1956, Don attended a graphics art school in St. Petersburg, Florida. He was employed by Harris Corporation in Palm Bay as a Technical Illustrator/Graphics Designer. Sue and Don raised two wonderful sons, Brett and Steve, born in 1958 and 1959, respectively.

When Don retired from Harris Corporation, he enjoyed many interests. He was an avid golfer with a low handicap. Don had an interest in sports cars, owning a Porsche Speedster; Datsun 240-Z; Jaguar E-Type; Porsche 356; and a Ferrari 360. Casinos were another form of entertainment – his sister-in-law, Jo Ann, was Don's slot-machine partner.

Don's special memories include the thrill of driving his red Ferrari on the race track at the Daytona speedway - he was a high-speed driver (legally) for a few moments! He also shot a hole-in-one at the Royal Oak golf course, Florida, in 1978. For many years, Don and Brett enjoyed attending the annual Masters' tournament in Augusta, Georgia.

Don was a brother, husband, father, uncle, and a good friend to many. May he "Rest in Peace" beside his beloved sons who preceded him in death.



**John Patrick O'Connor** passed away on March 2, 2022, at the age of 73, of congestive heart failure.

He was born September 20, 1949, in Colon, Republic of Panama. John graduated from Balboa High School in 1967.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon O'Connor, and his daughters of Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. John is also sur-

vived by his sister, Colleen O'Connor Lau, and his brother Gary O'Connor residing in the Tampa Bay, Florida area. John was the kindest big brother anyone could ever have. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



**Edward T. Paine "Ted,"** 96, passed away on April 4, 2021, in Quilcene, Washington.

Ted was born December 9, 1924, in Black Diamond, Washington. He grew up during the great depression and lived in various places around the Olympic Peninsula. At eight years old,

he lived with his father in their 12' x 14' cedar shack along the Sekiu River. There they built a dugout spruce canoe using only fire and an adze. They lived on sourdough, bacon grease, and the fish they caught. Although he remembered being constantly cold and hungry, he was a happy child.

At the age of ten, Ted moved to his aunt and uncle's home in Bremerton, where he discovered his love for anything mechanical, from tractors to engines and cars. He stayed there until his teens, and his aunt encouraged him to take the apprentice exam for the Navy yard. During High School, Ted worked at the Navy yard as a machinist apprentice on battle-damaged Navy ships until he was eighteen. In 1943 he was conscripted into the Navy and assigned to a troop transport ship, the *USS General S.D. Sturgis*. With 50 officers and a crew of 450 enlisted, they transported about 3,300 troops and 230 officers per trip.

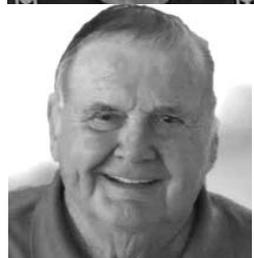
One day late in the War, Ted's ship docked in Manilla, unloaded the troops, and took on-board representatives from allied countries. The Captain got on the PA system and said, "Attention, all hands. I have a message. I can't tell you where we are going, but it starts with a T and ends with an O." Days later, they docked in Tokyo Bay. The sailors were itching to get offshore and explore, but permission to leave the ship was not given. Ted and his buddies got a five-gallon garbage bucket and requested "Permission to dump the garbage, Sir." Once they got down the gangway, they slipped away and explored the city for a couple of hours. Upon their return to the Customs House pier, an open black car transporting a number of Japanese officers drove past them and over to the Destroyer *McArthur*, which then transported the officers out to the *USS Missouri*. On deck were General McArthur, Admiral Halsey, General Wainwright, and many of the officers who signed the Peace Treaty. Ted continued his service in the Navy, returning troops home until May 1946, when he returned to civilian life.

Back in Bremerton and at the Navy Yard, Ted finished his



**William J. Nickisher Jr.**, loving husband, and father, passed away at age 88 on March 22, 2022.

Will was born on March 24, 1933, in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania, to William J. Nickisher Sr. and Rose T. (Butter) Nickisher. In 1958, he met the love of his life, Sally, and the two love birds were married six months later on November 22, 1958. This devoted and loving marriage blessed Will and Sally with five children; Lee, Tommy, John, Lori, Connie, ten grandchildren; Nikki, Kristin, Erika, Eryn, John Ryan, Stevie, Niko, Tyler,



Ashley, Connor, and five great-grandchildren; Barrett, Ace, William, Easton, and Knox.

Will moved down to the Panama Canal Zone when he was a young child and was an electrician by trade. He eventually became the head of the Electrical Division in the Panama Canal Zone. Will was also very athletic and played high school and college football (Canal Zone College). He was president of the Pacific League Softball, refereed high school football, and was an avid golfer. When he wasn't playing or referring sports, he enjoyed hanging out with his friends and family, cheering on the Pittsburgh Steelers, running the La Boca Christmas Block Party, and throwing one heck of a fish fry. Will was known for his witty humor, generosity, and sincere personality. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Will was preceded in death by his wife, Sally; father, William; mother, Rose; brother, Raymond, and sister, Rose.

apprenticeship and married Billie. In 1950, Ted, an inactive Navy Reserve, was called up again. His ship, the 'Worcester,' a light cruiser in the sixth fleet, was the first ship to enter the Korean War. He served in the Mediterranean for thirteen months. During his service in the Navy, Ted transited the Panama Canal and, gazing across the landscape, thought to himself; this might be a nice place to live.

Upon leaving the Navy again, Ted returned to Bremerton and the life he had there. He took up car racing during his spare time. His driving and mechanical skills increased and even extended to making his own tires in the kitchen oven until his wife complained about the smell in the house! Ted then bought another stove and moved his enterprise down to the basement.

In 1963, upon the encouragement of his wife, the Paine family moved to the Panama Canal Zone. While in Panama, Ted became Foreman Marine Machinist. He fixed ships from many countries around the world, with no instruction booklets or parts stores to depend on. Everything was made on sight, and problems were solved quickly to keep the canal open and ships moving. He overhauled the Panama locks' gates, the largest of these weighing 750 tons, 85 feet high, 60 feet wide, and 10 - 12 feet thick. Throughout his time there, Ted continued to race cars at the Grand Prix.

Upon retirement in 1981, Ted and Billie returned to Washington State, where he went to work for Thermionics. Ted now shifted gears from working on dredges and ships 800 feet long to making stainless steel parts the size of a match-head; if you dropped them, you couldn't find them again.

For the next twenty years, Ted spent his summers gold mining up in the Yukon. Ted was a lifelong member of the Elks and supported many other local events. He was always ready to lend a friend or neighbor a hand, especially if it involved making machines work. Ted attributed his ninety-plus years to keeping a good sense of humor, splitting his own wood, and remembering that all things in life are temporary.

He is survived by his two daughters, Patricia (Patti) Paine and Karen Paine McAlpine, both of Palm Harbor, Florida, and his grandson, John McAlpine of Tacoma, Washington.



**Carl Slattery**, US Army (Ret.), passed away peacefully in his home near Atlanta, Georgia, on July 27, 2021, just weeks before his 81st birthday. He remained a loving and dutiful husband to his wife, Jackie Wagner Slattery, until his last breath.

We admire Carl's example and are so thankful for his continued love and support for our family. Carl was born August 12, 1940, in St. Louis City, Illinois, to his parents, La Vern Bell and Russell Slattery, both of Illinois. Carl entered the Army at an early age and served our country during his career of thirty-plus years. He was highly decorated in Vietnam and received four Bronze Stars, a Silver Star Medal, a Purple Heart Medal, a Meritorious Service Medal, and many honors. In his later career, Carl continued to work for the military in various supporting roles, including Desert Storm.

Carl enjoyed long trips across the country, fishing, and camping for weeks on end, including driving to the northernmost point in Alaska and visiting dear friends along the way. He and Jackie enjoyed their home and friends during their retirement in Zephyrhills, Florida, for many years together. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Carl will be greatly missed by his loving family, John and Jodi Wagner; Jim and Rhonda Wagner; and his three grandchildren, Jaye Lynn, Ashton, and Grant Wagner.



**Jacqueline Elaine (Ashton) Wagner Slattery**, age 78, of the former Panama Canal Zone, peacefully departed this world on February 10, 2022, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Jackie was born November 8, 1943, in Coco Solo Hospital, Colon, Panama, to her parents, Marguerite Pate Ashton (Florida) and Nathan Ashton (Maine). Jackie spoke fondly of her memories of growing up at 1541-B Mango Street, Balboa, Canal Zone. She is a graduate of Balboa High School Class of 1961. Her friends will remember her for her beautiful smile, adventurous attitude, honesty, and integrity.

Jackie's career was primarily as a civilian Security Specialist for the U.S. Army, the position from which she retired after thirty years of service, having received many commendations for her high job performance and substantial contributions.

Jackie is preceded in death by her former husband, John Young Wagner (1988), and most recently by her dutiful husband, Carl Slattery (2021), and her brother, Warren Ashton.

Jackie is survived by her two sons, John William Wagner (Jodi Lynn Godby Wagner) of Boca Raton, Fla., and James Warren Wagner (Rhonda Baker Wagner) of Johns Creek, Ga.; and grandchildren, Jaye Lynn Wagner, Ashton Wagner, and Grant Wagner.

She was a beloved mother, grandmother, and dear friend. Her ashes will be shared in some of her favorite places in her beautiful Panama. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



**Beatriz Elizabeth Truxton** passed away on January 28, 2022.

Beatriz was born March 12, 1932 in Guayaquil Ecuador to Anibal Leon Barrera and Melania Medina Molina. She had two older sisters.

Beatriz married the love of her life, Perry Truxton, on December 16, 1950, in Ecuador after a whirlwind six-week courtship. They were two months shy of their 60th wedding anniversary when Perry passed away in 2010.

Beatriz made many friends in Central and South America and the Caribbean following Perry, who worked for the Inter American Geodetic Survey headquartered in the Panama Canal Zone. During his career, they lived in Bolivia, Chile,



Cuba, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Panama. In 1976, they moved to Alamogordo, N.M. Beatriz and Perry continued to travel after Perry retired in 1985.

In her mid-60s, Beatriz decided to pursue education by first earning her G.E.D. and then continuing to earn her Associate of Arts degree in 2008 at the Alamogordo branch of New Mexico State University. She also took many art classes, enjoying drawing and acrylic painting. She worked with students part-time in the Language Lab as a Spanish tutor, where she made many friends.

Beatriz enjoyed the beach and scuba diving when she was younger. She went camping because Perry promised her that she would not have to either cook or clean up! Beatriz and Perry were great dancers. Beatriz enjoyed animals. As a child, she had a monkey and an ocelot as a pet. She loved dogs. Her favorite breed was the beagle, and her favorite dog names were Ginger and Topsy!

Beatriz had a deep faith in her savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. She taught her children to also have a deep faith in God. Beatriz loved traveling. She enjoyed visiting her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She made it a priority to attend milestone events such as weddings, high school or college graduations, and First Holy Communions.

In 2018, Beatriz went to live with her children. She lived with Roy in Tampa, Fla., before coming to live with Nellie in Antioch, Calif. Beatriz joined the Antioch Senior Center, where she participated in the painting classes. She also enjoyed attending the senior activities at the Celebration Center at Lighthouse Baptist Church in Brentwood, Calif.

Beatriz is survived by her sons, Roy, Charlie (Vicki), and Stephen, and daughter Nellie (Brian) Beatty; grandchildren Emmanuel, Michael, Maureen, Elizabeth (Nathan) Blumhorst, Teresa, Jennifer, Katherine, Angela, Christopher, Sarah, Aaron, Rebecca, Annelise, and Maria; great-grandchildren Gabriel, Jacob, and Emrys; and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Administration, but never completed the dreaded thesis. Always eager to learn, he completed his MA in Criminal Justice, with NOVA University (CZ Branch), in 1979. He found joy in teaching not only as a CZP training sergeant but also as an adjunct professor in criminal justice for the Canal Zone College.

After the CZP disbanded in 1982, he worked with the Panama Canal Liaison unit for a brief time and then was transferred to the Motor Transportation Division as Assistant Chief, where he served until his retirement in 1991. He relocated to San Antonio, Texas, where he worked as a Bexar County Probation Officer until his final retirement in 2006. Despite all his accomplishments, when people would ask what he did, he always replied that he was a federal police officer with the Canal Zone Police. It was his identity where he found direction and fulfillment in service and thrived. "Protect and Serve" were more than a motto. It was how he lived.

Immediately upon retirement, he embarked on his three-week dream trip to New Zealand with eight more days exploring Australia. Following this, Jim and Judi hit the road, traveling throughout the country in his beloved Suburban. A particular highlight was their 2014 trip through Canada and Nova Scotia. Jim always did all the driving! They also cruised and spent many months in their Vero Beach, Florida home. He loved his time in Florida because he was able to visit with so many former Canal Zone friends and spend time walking on the beach. He returned to Panama at least five times over the years reminiscing.

He gave time and encouragement to others through Meals on Wheels and Road to Recovery.

Jim loved nothing more than spending time with his children, grandchildren, and his children's friends. No matter what was on the agenda, if they called, he was there. He knew how to fix anything, especially cars. Even in recent days, he enjoyed doing projects with the next generation and passing on knowledge.

Jim was a great card player, and for 25 years, he traveled and played bridge with their good friends. Over the last seven years, they joined bridge groups in San Antonio and Florida. Jim was an excellent player and worthy opponent. He was incredibly sad to give up playing bridge.

Jim was a quiet, humble, kind, and generous gentleman. He faced his medical issues without complaint and fought bravely and valiantly until the last day. He died peacefully.

James is survived by his wife, Judith Warford Wheeler (BHS'64); daughters, Jeri Ruth Wheeler-Hsu (BHS'89) (Peter) and Jana Wheeler Potts (BHS'90) (John); son, James Harold Wheeler IV (Judith); grandchildren, Jillian Grace, John Joseph, Karis Janae, Joshua James, Zachary James, Jack Cayden, Jameson Cate, and Liberty Joy; sisters Diane, Karen and Debra; and brothers Dennis, John, and Tim. In addition to his family, Jim is survived by his faithful and constant shadow, JJ, his 13-year-old Boston Terrier. He was preceded in death by his mother, Grace Binnie Wheeler, and sister, Carol Harris. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



**James Harold Wheeler III**, age 77, passed away on April 18, 2022, in San Antonio, Texas. James was born on July 13, 1944, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Jim graduated in 1962 from Plymouth High School, Plymouth, Michigan. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1965 and was stationed with the 534th MP Company at Fort Clayton, Canal Zone. Upon discharge from the Army, he joined the Canal Zone Police (CZP), where he achieved the rank of lieutenant. In addition to working full-time in his chosen field, he studied and graduated from Florida State University (CZ Branch) with his BA in Criminal Justice. He proceeded to attend Oklahoma State University (CZ Branch) and completed all the coursework for a Masters in Public