

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.



Catherine Ann (Ridge) Adams, 78, of Kerrville, Texas, passed away on December 7, 2020, in a San Antonio Hospital. Born at Ancon Hospital in the Canal Zone on March 13, 1942, Cathey was the eldest of two daughters of the late John E. Ridge, Jr. and Julia Belle (Wilson) Ridge.

Cathey was the first of all 35 grandchildren in the John E. Ridge, Sr. (Roosevelt Medal Recipient Descendant) and Theresa (Boland) family (they had 12 children). She was an accomplished employee of the U. S. District Court, Supervisor for Agents Accounts with the Panama Canal Company. Bilingual? No, trilingual. Her acquaintance with the West Indian culture earned her the nickname "Catrine Sweetness." She spoke fluent Spanish and English and was a mathematical pro.

Cathey had a heart of gold and counseled many people. There was a humility about her that drew many to her. She had a "mother's heart" but never had children of her own. She went to Our Lady of the Lake in San Antonio for a year as a high school freshman. She returned with a very professional aptitude for music. She loved playing the piano. After graduation from Balboa High School in 1960, she went to New Orleans, LA, to study in a nursing program, but decided this was not her calling.

Cathey was a kind, loving, intelligent, and strong Catholic and taught adults about the faith. She married Donald Lee Adams on January 13, 1966. They adopted Don's infant grandson, Damian Francois Adams, in 1976, when Don's daughter could not care for him.

Gorgona Beach, sometimes a second home, was where she could refresh herself with hiking, swimming, and playing cards with a Canal Zone friend and retiree she called "Mom Duval." In the mid-60s when Cathey bought a Doberman Pincer whom she called "Gitano," she would sit him in the passenger seat. Why? The custom was that the Guardia Nacional officer would sometimes want to hail a free ride, and she didn't want this, so the dog there inspired them not even to give it a thought!

Cathey, Don, and Damian moved to Kerrville in 1980. Don had retired from the U.S. Army after the Korean War and the Panama Canal Company (Supply Division). When Don passed away in 2005, she decided to remain in Kerrville with her son.

Cathey is survived by her sister, Mary Beth Ridge (BHS '62), now a nun at Incarnate Word Convent and called Sister Therese Ann Ridge, her son Damian, four grandchildren, 33 first cousins, and five nieces and nephews. She is greatly missed by all who knew and loved her, especially her little sister, Mary, and her "adopted daughter" Joanie (Ridge) McCoy (BHS '75), who visited her often in person and by

phone. As Joanie puts it, "I was closer to Cathey than I was with my own mother." Rest in Peace, Catrine Sweetness! She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Patrick Michael Arnold, age 76, passed away unexpectedly in his sleep on December 9, 2020, after outpatient hernia surgery.

Born at Gorgas Hospital in Ancon, Canal Zone on July 1, 1944, Pat attended Canal Zone schools and graduated from Balboa High School in 1963. Pat spent four years in the Air Force and was a Vietnam Veteran.

Pat was a person of action and packed a full life into his 76 years. He rode motorcycles, drove a car from Panama to Chicago, Illinois, swam across the Chagres River, visited Scotland, Columbia, and Europe, snorkeled and spear-fished all around Panama, scuba-dived in Florida, Mexico, Tahiti, Cayman Islands, and the Abacos. He soloed low-wing Cessna airplanes, parachuted from planes, and skied at every Ski Resort in California and Colorado.

Pat played golf, sailed boats, did white-water canoeing, hiking, camping, and mountain climbing. Pat loved new adventures, and he loved people and all animals. He especially loved dogs, and he always had a dog at his side when he was at home. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Pat had an easy-going personality, and family and friends are going to miss him dearly. Pat was predeceased by his wife of 33 years, Maureen, who passed in 2015 from cancer, and his daughter Patsy in 2019.

Pat is survived by his 101 years old mother Frances Arnold Enyart, brothers Tom and Bill Arnold, his wife Susan Arnold, his son Michael Arnold and three grandchildren. Pat will be interred at Sarasota National Cemetery after the end of Covid pandemic.



Donald Richard Barons, 91, passed away peacefully on December 21, 2020, at The Oaks in Woodstock, Georgia, with family at his side. Don was born in Rochester, New York, in 1929 but moved down south after a brief tour in the Army. He said he had enough snow to last him the rest of his life and preferred Georgia's warmth and later the Canal Zone. To

seal the deal, he met and married a beautiful southern belle from Alabama, Betty Lois Childs, who was the love of his life. Don and Betty raised four children, Sam, Rush, Lorrie, and Liz, who all married and raised children of their own,

providing Don with ten grandchildren who were all close to their Grandpa.

Don moved his family down to the Panama Canal Zone in 1968. He had signed up to work for the Army in Amador for five years. The family resided in Ft. Kobbe during that time. After his five years working for the Army, Don got a job working for the Canal Zone Administration until his early retirement in 1979. Don and Betty then moved back to Georgia.

Don enjoyed spending time with his family, bowling, canoeing, traveling, and especially playing tennis. He would get up early on Saturday and Sunday mornings to get a few hours of tennis in with his good friends before the Panama heat took over. Tennis, family picnics at the Observatory, and happy hour with Betty and friends (to name a few) gave Don the idea that the Zone was paradise. He hated to leave the Canal Zone, but life in Georgia with the grandchildren turned out to be another fine place to live.

Don and Betty (who predeceased Don) were very fortunate to have the undying love of their children, grandchildren, close friends (Cobbs, Pounds, and Bentleys), plus others. He was remembered as always having a smile on his face and a twinkle in his eyes. Don, like most of us, wanted to leave something positive behind when he left this world. Don left his family and friends with wonderful memories, for he touched many souls throughout his life.



was the daughter of the late Andrea Urriola Monterrosa. She was the widow of Billy D. Bell.

Jilma was a loving mother, grandmother and friend with a beautiful smile and a contagious laugh. She loved her grandchildren so very much. She was a woman of strong faith, praying daily for her family and friends as well as her extended family in Panama. Jilma believed in giving back and was a supporter of many charities to help those in need. She was a member of St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church.

Left to cherish her memory are her children, Billy Bell Jr., Elizabeth C. Bell, and Lourie Rendino; sister, Judith Yolanda Urriola de Leones; granddaughters, Nicolette, Bryan, Cecilia and Andrea; and six beautiful great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by her sons, Jaime and Carlton Bell; and brother, Julio Ernesto Urriola.



Sharon Stewart Barrows, 72, of Palmyra, Penn., and formerly of Clymer, N.Y., Mayville, N.Y., and Ancon, Canal Zone, passed away at her home on December 6, 2020, with family at her side, following a lengthy illness. She was born January 17, 1948, in Ancon, Canal Zone in the Republic of Panama, to the late Robert H. Stewart and Caroline G. Shearer Stewart Ellsworth.

Sharon had worked as an elementary school teacher at Sherman Central School. She enjoyed traveling, reading, sewing, swimming, gardening, singing, and family get-togethers.

Sharon is survived by her husband Frederick J. Barrows, whom she married August 15, 1970, in the Mayville United Methodist Church, Mayville, N.Y.; three daughters, Dawn (Spencer) Cooley of Phoenix, N.Y., Christine (Joel) Valvo of Palmyra, Penn., and Tiffany (David) Musselman of Allentown, Penn.; five grandchildren, Stephen and Hannah Valvo, Maya Cooley, and Everly and Noah Musselman. She is also survived by her two sisters, Eileen (Stan) Roth and Noralyn (Jack) Nichols. She was also preceded in death by her two brothers, Gordon C. Stewart and David R. Stewart.

Jilma Cecilia Quiros De Bell, 88, of Anderson, S.C., passed away on December 29, 2020, at AnMed Health Medical Center.

Born on December 21, 1932, in Panama City, Panama, she



Eleanor Mary (Gallagher) Blair, 98, died on October 17, 2020.

On March 12, 1922, in Philadelphia, Penn., a baby girl, Eleanor, was born to an Austrian immigrant mother, Pauline Marx, and an Irish American father, John Gallagher. Her parents weren't wealthy and worked hard to make ends meet for Eleanor and her older brother, Johnny. As a result, she spent a great deal of time as a child with her maternal grandparents, who owned a bakery in the city. That's where Eleanor first learned the importance of paying attention to detail and the value of hard work, not to mention her life-long love of good bread and pastries.

She learned about the finer things in life while working at a wealthy family's estate (the Biddle family) on Philadelphia's Main Line near Villanova. Eleanor's parents worked and lived at the estate along with her and her brother. She told stories of spending hours in the kitchen peeling grapes so that the family didn't have to eat the sometimes-bitter grape skins. She also told stories of helping her father with the family's show horses, including one harrowing night when she fell down the hay chute into a terrified stallion's stall. She said her cries of "Daddy..., your sweetheart has fallen down the hole" were eventually heard by her father, who rushed to her rescue.

As a young teen, Eleanor met a man who was nine years her senior, Robert John Blair. Bob would often play cards with her father. Eleanor was a beauty, even at an early age, and she quickly caught Bob's eye. She and Bob were married when she was just 17; he was 26. Their first son, Robert John Blair, Jr., was born on February 2, 1941. The family settled into daily life, with Eleanor staying at home with "Bobby" and Bob working multiple jobs (including ice truck driver and bartender) to make ends meet. Eventually, Bob became an electrician, working as a lineman and joining the International

Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) union. Not long afterward, Bob enlisted in the Navy to join the battle against Imperial Japan in the South Pacific. His experience as a line-man helped him become a Chief Petty Officer in the Seabees (the naval engineering division), and he was deployed to the Philippine Islands to help build the infrastructure necessary to support U.S. troops. During wartime, Eleanor did what many women of her era did. She worked to support the war effort. She drove a parcel post truck delivering packages; she also took her young son to school every day and maintained the home, praying that Bob would come home to resume everyday life after the war.

Fortunately, Bob returned from the battlefield a decorated veteran. After his return, they expanded their family with a second son, John Robert Blair (aka “Jack” and “Dain Eric”), born on April 15, 1947. The growing family bought their first home in Ridley Park, PA, and Bob started working at the Philadelphia Navy Yard as an electrician. After settling into suburban life for several years, Bob decided he needed to expand his horizons and earnings by taking a job with the Panama Canal Company. Eleanor, who loved her home in Ridley Park, dug in her heels, saying he should go “try living in Panama” before she would uproot her young family and move them to a third-world country. While a traditional housewife, Eleanor was extremely independent and very strong-willed (traits that only grew stronger with age). It took Bob two years to convince Eleanor that life in the Panama Canal Zone was ideal for raising “the boys” and that it was a tropical paradise where she could enjoy beaches, swimming pools, and shopping for exotic wares from all over the world.

Eleanor finally agreed, and the family moved to Cristóbal on the Atlantic Side of the Isthmus of Panama in 1952. What she had resisted so emphatically for so long was to become the happiest time of her life as Eleanor quickly came to love her adopted country. She always enjoyed the outdoors and took full advantage of Panama’s year-round summer-like weather, becoming a Red Cross 100+ mile swimmer whose lap log was the envy of many. She enjoyed her sons’ Little League games and scouting activities. She also became the “band mom” when her younger son, Dain, organized a rock band called “The Castaways.” On July 18, 1957, Bob and Eleanor welcomed their third child, a girl named Marjorie.

As Bob’s career blossomed, Eleanor enjoyed being a new mom again as well as entertaining and socializing. Probably the highlight of the social aspect of her life in Panama was when Bob was selected to work with the Mitsubishi Company of Japan to help develop the design for new towing locomotives for the Panama Canal, replacing the original locomotives that started service in 1914, the year the Panama Canal opened. Bob was assigned to go to Tokyo to work with Mitsubishi engineers to come up with the requirements and design. The months he spent in Japan was the highlight of his career. When the Japanese engineers visited the Canal Zone, he took responsibility for showing the engineers around Panama. Eleanor took on entertaining and hosting many fabulous meals to return the hospitality shown her husband when he visited Japan.

The years in paradise passed quickly. First, Bobby graduated from high school and joined the U.S. Air Force. Seven years later, Dain left Panama to attend college in St.

Petersburg, Fla., and he subsequently moved to Daytona Beach. A decade later, in 1975, Marjorie left her birthplace to go to college in Maryland. Bob had just one year left before his mandatory retirement. Both Bob and Eleanor stressed the decision to retire and leave Panama after calling it home for nearly 25 years, or potentially stay there, becoming true expatriates. Eventually, they decided to move to Daytona Beach, where their second son Dain had put down roots, and Marjorie had transferred to complete her college education. They decided the beach and warm weather would be the closest they could get to Panama while re-patriating themselves back to U.S. soil. That happened in 1976. They initially rented an apartment in Ormond Beach before purchasing their home in Port Orange in 1978, the same house Eleanor lived in until her death.

Eleanor acclimated to her new home and life in Florida with gusto. She quickly started jogging on the world-famous Daytona Beach, logging countless hundreds of miles, just as she had done with her swimming in the Canal Zone. She also loved shopping and enjoyed spending hours in stores. She also joined Indigo Lakes Health Club and made many good friends among the ladies who exercised at the club.

Another great joy for Eleanor was her pets. She loved all animals and had many of them over her lifetime, including dogs, cats, birds, and more exotic types like ducks and even squirrels; three of which she named Hickory, Walnut, and Peanut after finding them still with their eyes closed laying in a ditch in her neighborhood. Those squirrels, along with a flying squirrel named Rocky Bounce, who joined the menagerie along the way, enjoyed full lives with her, living in her house and on her back porch.

There is no doubt that Eleanor had a very long and unique life. While happy alone, she never met a stranger, striking up conversation readily with anyone she encountered. That said, she only ever had a few close friends. Among those she cherished most in the latter part of her life was her long-time neighbor (aka, her “boyfriend”) Billy Allen and her caretaker and neighborhood friend, Kathy Jensen. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Eleanor’s strong will, kind heart, and spunky spirit live on in her three children, as well as in their children and their children’s children. Children include Robert (Bob) Blair, Jr., Dain (Jack) Blair, and Marjorie Blair Bulone; seven grandchildren, Keith Blair, Jennifer Blair Bono, Dain (DJ) Blair, Jr., Justin Blair, Taylor Blair, Christopher Bulone, and Lauren Bulone. She also leaves behind nine great-grandchildren.



Rosanna Ramona (Eastham) Blais, 65, of Plano, Texas, passed away on November 2, 2020, after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born on December 20, 1954, to Leo W. and Maria Rosa (Hernandez) Eastham in Odessa, Texas. Rosanna graduated from Balboa High School with the class of 1973 in Canal Zone, Panama. She attended Stephen F. Austin University in 1975. At Stephen F. Austin, Rosanna met and eventually married the love of her life, Jerry Blais, on

July 15, 1977. Shortly after marriage, she began her career at Texas Credit Union League before becoming a stay-at-home mom after her first child's birth. After raising two beautiful children in the late nineties, she returned to the workforce, taking a position at Emler Swim School (Plano), where she dedicated 21 years working with her "second family." A devoted wife, loving mother, doting Aunt, and friend to countless others, Rosanna could occasionally be honest to a fault. Still, it was this honesty that people gravitated to and truly made her unforgettable. The birth of her first granddaughter in January 2019 brought her great joy and continued to put a smile on her face in her final days.

She is survived by her husband, Jerry Blais; daughter Rachel Blais; son Erik (Bree) Blais; granddaughter Bebe Blais; sister Carmen C. (Maurice) Kelleher; brother Leo W. Eastham, Jr.; nephew Mickey Kelleher; nephew and Godson, William Kelleher; niece Carmen Christina (Russell) Korte; nephews Phillip T. Blais and Jason Lambertson; and various other family known as the "Flying B Ranch Thanksgiving Gang". Rosanna was preceded in death by her parents.

Stateside nieces and nephews visited. She often shared stories of her students for many years after retiring to the U.S.

After moving to Sarasota, Florida in 1987, she and Justin were active members of St. Mary Star of the Sea Church on Longboat Key. Margaret served as lector and a past President of the Ladies Auxiliary Guild. She and Justin were inducted into the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem (a Papal honor) in 1995. In St. Petersburg, Margaret was a member of St. Raphael's Catholic Church and its Catholic Council of Women until her death. Attending weekly mass was her highest priority as she progressed from independent living to assisted living to skilled nursing care. During COVID (March 2020 to her death), church members kept in regular touch through "lock-down," and the family found ways for her to remain connected to her catholic practices until her death. Stepdaughter Barbara Marshall lived six blocks from Margaret's St. Petersburg residence, and she and her husband Jay were continually active in Margaret's life.

Margaret is remembered as a person filled with lifelong joy, appreciation, gratitude, resilience, happiness, politeness, and as a loyal catholic. She had a huge love for dogs and owned diverse breeds for many decades, especially noted for her love of dachshunds, Boston Terriers, and Pomeranians.

She is survived by stepdaughters Sherry Bonanno (Tom Dunlap) of California; Barbara (Jay) Marshall of St. Petersburg; John (Valerie) Bonanno of New York, and nieces Shawne (Larry) Giustra of Georgia; Erin Gately of Oregon; Maureen Gately of Maryland; and nephews Michael (Laura) of Texas and Bob (Brooke) of Washington. Her grandchildren are Lauren and Janine Bonanno, and Thomas and Justin Dunlap. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Margaret Marie (Gately) Bonanno, (92), of St. Petersburg, Florida, died Jan 13, 2021, at her Westminster Palms senior living residence, where she lived for 11 years. Born in Boston and raised in the Boston area, Margaret graduated from Emmanuel College and Boston College. She did doctoral studies at Florida State University. She arrived in Cristobal in 1957 at the young age of 29, not knowing anyone, after being hired to teach when she learned that the Schools system was hiring science teachers. Margaret's 25+ year work career was as an educator and counselor. She taught biology and general science and served as a counselor at Cristobal High School before transferring to Canal



Zone Junior College, where she was Associate Professor, Counselor, and Assistant Dean. While in Panama, she was the recipient of three National Science Foundation grants to Brown University, the University of Southwestern Louisiana, and the University of Southern California. Her brother Frank Gately joined her a few years later and taught history at Balboa High School. Frank died in 2015 at the age of 92 in St. Petersburg. The Panama Canal Company permitted them to bring their Boston parents to live with them, where they were cared for by Margaret and Frank until their death.

Margaret married Captain Justin J. Bonanno (deceased in 2007) in 1977 after his first wife Jeanne died from a heart attack in 1975 while returning from the Atlantic side to the Pacific side with friends. Justin's career was as a Panama Canal ship pilot. Margaret taught Catholic Sunday School for many years at St. Mary's Mission and on the U.S. military bases. Her adventurous spirit took her many times to the San Blas Islands and El Valle, especially when her young



Scott Alan Burns passed away on January 19, 2021, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. On January 7, 1952, he was born in Wichita, Kansas, to Jean Darel and Roberta Doris (Garrett) Burns.

In 1970, Scott received his high school diploma from Balboa High School, Balboa, Canal Zone in Panama. After graduating from BHS, Scott attended Canal Zone College for two years, where he enjoyed being on the basketball team. In 1972, he went stateside to continue his education. For several summers and many Christmas holidays after that year,



Scott would return to the Canal Zone where he enjoyed boating and going to the island and lake with his parents and sister. Catching the launch to Taboga Island and driving to Santa Clara Beach were also some of his favorite activities. He loved the ocean and beaches. Scott received his Bachelor of Science, Business Administration and Management Degree from Northeastern State College in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, in 1974. At Northeastern, he was a charter member of the ACA-CIA Fraternity. While in school, he participated in basketball, track, and volleyball.

Scott enjoyed traveling and lived in Wichita, Kansas; Seattle, Washington; Altus, Oklahoma; Tulsa, Oklahoma; Karachi, Pakistan; Izmir, Turkey; Munich, Germany; Livorno, Italy; Sierra Vista, Arizona; Gamboa, Panama Canal Zone; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Stratford, Connecticut.

Scott worked for Skaggs-Albertsons Food and Drug Store (Tulsa and Oklahoma City) right out of college, and then subsequently for the Department of Air Force (Tinker AFB), Defense Logistics Agency (Tulsa), Department of the Navy (Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford), and then, finally, for Department of Energy (Southwestern Power Administration in Tulsa).

Scott was a member of the Panama Canal Society (Florida and Oklahoma) and the Tulsa Elks Lodge #946. Scott enjoyed attending the annual Scotfest and Oktoberfest in Tulsa. He financially supported Animal Rescue Groups in Tulsa and enjoyed feeding community cats, squirrels, birds, and other wildlife.

Scott enjoyed reading the Holy Bible and believed in the Almighty God of the Holy Bible. He loved his family and friends. Scott was always greeting everyone with a smile and retained his fighting spirit to the end. All will dearly miss him.

Scott is survived by his sister Laura (Burns) Redemann, and brother-in-law Michael Redemann of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and his two nieces Elizabeth Redemann of Dallas, Texas, and Cheyenne Redemann of Carrollton, Texas. He is survived by many special cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Bob raised five children: Barbara, Thomas, Maureen, Robert Jr., and John.

After serving as a nurse at Gorgas Hospital for several years, she changed careers and entered service with the Department of Defense in the Canal Zone. She held many positions, from Budget Analyst to the Chief of Housing for both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army in Panama. She was very community-oriented and served as the first President of Soroptimist International in the Republic of Panama. She also worked with the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts (USA). She culminated her career as Chief of Housing in Fulda, Germany, in 1984 with 31 years of Federal Service. Once she retired, she relocated to Clearwater, Florida, where she obtained her Real Estate License. She also became President of the Community Association where she resided.

Following the passing of her husband, Bob, in 1990, she moved back to Panama. She resided in Pasoancho, Volcan, for many years, where she enjoyed overseeing her Coffee Farm, growing vegetables, raising chickens, and cuddling with her cat Goldie. She had a great love for Panama, its people, and its culture. Her home in Pasoancho was her happy place. She loved playing cards and board games with her family and friends and was very witty and competitive! Her kind and compassionate spirit will long be remembered by all those who knew and loved her.

Martha was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Paul Carey Sr., her daughter Barbara Ann (Carey) Russon, and her son Thomas Joseph Carey. She is survived by her daughter, Maureen (Carey) Domenech; sons Robert Paul Carey, Jr., and John Christopher Carey, grandchildren Deanne (Homa) Milne, Owen Russon, Jason Domenech, Robert Domenech, (Domenech) Noland, Sam Carey, Cate Carey, and Lily Carey, and great-grandchildren Taylor Domenech, Jonah Domenech, Ella Domenech, and Kaley Domenech. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Martha Ann Carey, age 97, passed away peacefully on December 11, 2020, in Riverview, Florida. She led a very fulfilling life as a wife, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Born in Fredericktown, Missouri, on September 20, 1923, to parents Joseph and Lulu (Buckner) Sonderman, she was the last living sibling of her three sisters, Helen, Polly, and Rosemary, and her two brothers, John and Bob.



Martha graduated from Fredericktown High School in 1940 and enrolled in Saint John's Hospital School of Nursing. She became a registered nurse in 1944, and soon after enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps. While serving in the Philippines as a second lieutenant, she was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Victory Medal and the Philippine Independence Ribbon.

As fate would have it, the troop transport ship carrying her to her assigned post encountered mechanical problems and had to dock at the pier in Balboa, Canal Zone. Her brave spirit and curious nature led her off the ship that day where she would meet the love of her life, Robert (Bob) Paul Carey. After corresponding with him throughout her tour of duty, she later returned to the Canal Zone, where they were married at St. Mary's Catholic Church on August 28, 1948. Martha and



Suzanne "Suzy" Helé Carlton, 77, loving wife, mother, and grandmother, passed away in Pinehurst on Saturday, December 26, 2020, from complications caused by COVID-19.

Suzy was born January 15, 1943, in Pittsburgh, to Albert and Kathleen Helé. When she was 2, her family moved to the Panama Canal Zone, where she lived until graduating from Balboa High School in 1960. Suzy enrolled at Mount Mary University in Milwaukee, where she graduated cum laude with a degree in business administration in 1964. She later earned a master's degree in public administration from George Mason University.

On March 13, 1965, Suzy married the love of her life, Charlie Carlton, in the Canal Zone, where he was stationed with the U.S. Army. This began a new chapter in her life, one in which she continually exemplified the roles of committed Army wife, loving mother, and dedicated U.S. government civil servant. Suzy was a kind and outgoing soul. Inspired by her deep faith, she charitably gave herself to family, friends, and the many communities that she lived. At the same time,

she was able to pursue a successful career working as a civilian for the Army. She was selected to attend the U.S. Army War College, after which she served as a special assistant to two Army chiefs of staff.

Upon retirement, Suzy volunteered tirelessly for many organizations throughout the Sandhills region. She was a Sacred Heart Church Council member, helping to create the church nursery for the expanding number of parishioners with young children. As a volunteer tutor at Moore County schools, past-president of the Kiwanis of the Sandhills, and founder of the annual Military Child Appreciation Festival, Suzy continued her tremendous service to others. In addition, Suzy served on the Board of Directors of Mount Mary University and the Leader to Leader Institute. She was a recipient of the Kiwanis Builders Cup and the Moore County Schools Volunteer of the Year award.

Most of all, Suzy loved her family and lifelong friends who lived both near and far, especially the "Last Hurrah" group. She enjoyed entertaining, gardening, playing bridge, golfing, and traveling the world. Her zest for life and positive "can-do" attitude was contagious to all who knew her. She was known for her beautiful smile, which she shared with friends and strangers alike.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, retired Col. Charlie Carlton, and their three children, Roseann (Edward) Glassford, Dawn (Shannan) Morris, and Charlie Carlton; along with her nine grandchildren: Carly Morris, Kelin Morris, Tali Carlton, Josie Carlton, Lyra Carlton, Christopher Glassford, Charlie Carlton, Elijah Glassford, and Sawyer Carlton. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Orlando, Fla.; sister Brigitte Cabeza-Shanken (Jimmy) of Hinesville, Ga.; Guillermo J. Cabeza (Lizette) of Miami, Fla., Carlos D. Cabeza (Teri) of Raleigh, N.C.; nieces and nephews, David Righter (Melony) of Richmond Hill, Ga., Michelle Roberts of Athens, Ga., William, Ashley, and Sofia Cabeza of Miami, Fla., Charlie Cabeza of Raleigh, N.C. He is also survived by brothers-in-law Mike Alonso (family) of Arkansas, Pedro Alonso (family) of Valdosta, Ga.; Aunt Georgina Cabeza (family) of Honduras, Uncle/Aunt Fernando and Miriam Cabeza (family) of Miami, Fla., Joaquin and Lizette Chen (family) of Panama, Raul and Consuelo Chen (family) of Spain, Denia Chen (family) of Panama, and family and friends. Fernando's life forever will be cherished in the lives of those who loved him.



Linda Fawcett Griffin died peacefully on January 2, 2021, in the company of her dear husband of 46 years, Joe Griffin, her two daughters, Carole Noel and CJ Griffin, her son-in-law Bill Seifen, and two of her grandchildren, Eric Guzman and Jenna Ogrodnick. Her son Tim Griffin and three sons, Jason, Bryce, and Jeremy, were unable to get home in time to say "goodbye," but the love they had for her was reciprocated! Linda also has six great-grandchildren who enchanted her.

Linda cared deeply for her family, friends, work, and community. She and Joe took part in a student exchange program, and these students, Gabriel and Mauro, became family and have maintained close ties to this day. Linda had a deeply cherished circle of friends with whom she shared travel, books, wine, adventure, and laughter. She was well known and envied for her love of dogs!

Linda was preceded in death by her parents John and Beverly Fawcett. She was born in San Antonio, Texas, where her father was stationed with the Air Force. Shortly after her birth, the family moved to the Panama Canal Zone. Her dad became principal at Curundu Jr. High, and her mom was a 4th-grade teacher at Balboa Elementary. Linda graduated from Balboa High School in 1964. She had an idyllic childhood nurtured by a doting extended family and surrounded by good buddies. Linda earned her degree from the University of the Pacific in education with a focus in special education. While attending UOP, she took part time jobs with the San Joaquin County Dependent Children's Home and the Children's Home of Stockton. These experiences led to her interest in special education and her lifelong passion for helping those in need. These passions were expressed in her work at the Community Council of Stockton, the Women's Center of San Joaquin County, the Valley Resource Center in Ben Lomond, and ETR Associates in Scotts Valley. There were also many community organizations she served as a volunteer and board member. The highlight of these was serving on the Board of Directors at the Community Foundation in Santa Cruz.



Fernando José Cabeza Chen, 51, of Seville, Spain, passed away on January 13th, 2021, in Aldie, Virginia. Fernando José Cabeza Chen, son of Guillermo and Denise Cabeza, was born on November 26th, 1969, in Seville, Spain. He attended schools in the Canal Zone, Panama, and was a graduate of the Balboa High School class of 1988. He completed his Aviation Management degree as a licensed pilot from the Florida

Institute of Technology (FIT) in Melbourne, Florida. Fernando pursued his passion for flying, landing his dream job in 1997, 24 years ago with United Airlines, achieving commercial airline Captain's rank. Growing up, Fernando was very competitive in all sports and in everything he did. He was part of the track team during elementary and junior high; a football All-Star during high school, participated for a couple of years with his brother Willy in the Interoceanic Cayuco Race through the Panama Canal, and he was an avid reader.

Fernando is preceded in death by his beloved grandparents, Joaquin and Emerita Chen, David and Marcela Cabeza, and Uncle David Cabeza. He is survived by his wife Kelly Alonso Cabeza, and their beloved children, Joseph and Andrea; parents, Dr. Guillermo and Dr. Denise Cabeza of Pembroke Pines, Fla., in-laws, Mike and Nancy Alonso of

Linda loved to travel and was ready to go at the drop of a hat. She and Joe and close friends traveled extensively in the US and abroad. Because her father was a track and football coach, she had a lifelong interest in sports. Much of her travel took her to sporting events, such as the US Olympic Track and Field Trials every four years. Linda loved to write and was an avid storyteller. During her travels, Linda kept a journal that would be emailed to the long list of friends and family, who waited impatiently for the next installment. Once you became Linda's friend, you had a friend for life. To know Linda was to love and admire her! She will be in our hearts and minds forever!



Harold Harvey Harp died peacefully in Rogers, Arkansas, on October 17, 2020, at the age of 93. Harold was born on May 13, 1927, in Priest River, Idaho, to Jasper Jess Harp and Lillian May Harp. He grew up in Cascade and Clark Fork, Idaho. He married his wife Jerry in 1951 and seven years later moved to the Panama Canal Zone, where he worked for the Panama Canal Company. They retired to Northwest Arkansas in 1983.

Harold was a devoted husband and father. He went out of his way to help others. He was loved by everyone he met and made a lasting impact on the lives of many. He was always active with his church and made so many lasting friendships among his church family. His family and friends will deeply miss him. A Celebration of Life will be scheduled at a later date. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Harold is survived by his sister Mary Verdal, son Bill Harp and wife Susan Harp of the Republic of Panama and their children Liana Harp and Tereza Harp, daughter Jacquelyn Harp and husband Rod Walker of Berthoud, Colorado and Jacquelyn's children Rachael Harp and Ben Terry and Jacquelyn's grandson Wilde, daughter Laurie Harp Moreland and husband Bret Moreland of Boulder, Colorado and their children Zeke Moreland and Eli Moreland, son Jess D. Harp and wife Lynn Dunning Harp of Bentonville, Arkansas and their children Samantha Harp, Jess N. Harp and Cheryl Harp, daughter Rebecca Harp of Thornton, Colo. and her daughter Morgen Croft, daughter Mary Harp Cohen and husband Dave Cohen of Thornton, Colorado and their children Sarah Cohen, Bekah Cohen and Jake Cohen. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Leslie and wife Jerry Harp.



Tommie Lou Horter, 94, passed away at home on June 28, 2020. Tommie Lou was born on December 11, 1925, in Brewton, Alabama, to Thomas and Lucille Jordan. She was raised in Alabama with her two older sisters (Marjorie and Dorothy) and two younger brothers (Thomas and Aubrey). Her family moved to the

Panama Canal Zone during the Great Depression when Tommie Lou was 13 years old. They were excited to escape the depression and live in Panama. Some of Tommie Lou's favorite memories as a teenager were getting her first bicycle, swimming at Amador and Farfan beaches, and the Balboa pool. She also enjoyed attending church and playing volleyball with her friends. Tommie Lou graduated from Balboa High School in 1943 and began work for the Panama Canal Company. She briefly left the Canal Zone during WWII to live with family members and work in Rhode Island and Alabama.

Tommie Lou met her sweetheart Milton (Bud/Buddy) Horter Jr. while in the Canal Zone. They married on March 31, 1949, on the Atlantic side of the isthmus, where her parents lived. Bud and their three children, Ernest, Debra, and Richard, were born in the Canal Zone. The whole family loved their life in Panama and made many life-long friends. Tommie Lou worked for the Panama Canal Company until she retired from the Maintenance Division in 1974. After retirement, Tommie Lou, Bud, and their youngest son Richard moved to Austin, Texas., where daughter Debra was attending UT Austin. They fell in love with Austin and settled within a week. Their oldest son, Ernest, joined them shortly after graduating from the University of Kansas. Tommie Lou worked part-time for a few years in Austin before completely retiring. She enjoyed several years of ocean cruising with lots of family and friends, traveling around the U.S., attending Panama Canal reunions/gatherings in Florida and Texas, and worshipping at Great Hills Baptist Church. Tommie Lou was a kind, caring, generous person. She was a wonderful wife, mother, friend and will be dearly missed.

Tommie Lou was preceded in death by her husband, Milton Horter Jr. She is survived by her younger brother, Thomas (Consuela) Jordan; her three children, Ernest (Mary Ann) Horter, Debra Horter Watson, and Richard (Kathy) Horter; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and several nieces and nephews. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



José Miguel Johnson, 66, was known by many different names. To many, it was José; to some, it was Mike. Close friends called him Panama, and his oldest friends knew him as Rooster. With his family, he was cousin, brother, son, Dad, Papá, and husband. His strong will to survive gave him the strength to live until the very end, when he died from cancer on November 28, 2020. José was born in

Colón, República de Panamá, to Herschel Newton and Andrea Avelina Johnson. Herschel was a Colorado native who was raised in the Panama Canal Zone. Andrea was a native Panamanian born and raised in Penonomé, Panamá. José was raised in the Panama Canal Zone. He came to the United States in his early twenties with Colorado as his destination. He settled in Denver, was fast at making friends and finding a young woman (Donna) from Pennsylvania with whom he shared his life. He and Donna were married for

forty-two years and had two children, José and Andrea.

José was a devoted civil servant for local, state, and federal governments. His service included over fifteen years with US Customs and most recently over eight years with the State of Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies. He was proud to use his first language Spanish to connect and serve many people like himself. Panama enjoyed good music, good food, good beer, and a good time. Taking long drives through Colorado, finding new restaurants and breweries brought him much happiness. Making friends and lifting weights was a daily routine that kept his body and mind strong. His wife and children appreciate and are thankful for the countless acts of kindness from friends, neighbors, and extended family. The strength and love of his family supported him. He was surrounded by Donna, José, and Andrea when he passed. José is survived by his family: wife Donna Marie, son José (Valerie), daughter Andrea Theresa, granddaughter Marisol Rose, sister Alexis, and cousin Don Bensen. He is preceded in death by his father Herschel Newton and mother Andrea Avelina.



Horace (Harry) G. Loftin Jr., 93, of Greenville, formerly of Beaufort, died Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021, at Vidant Health in Greenville. Following Horace's wishes, there will be no public funeral or memorial service. The family will gather at the appropriate time.

Horace was born in Beaufort to Sadie Lee Henderson Loftin and Horace G. Loftin Sr. He graduated with a bachelor of science from Duke University. He earned a master's degree in journalism, a master's degree in biology, and a doctorate in biology from Florida State University. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army.

In 1955, he married his soul mate, Janice Keller Loftin, in Duke University Chapel. They had three children, Rex, Laura, and Tomas. In 1961, the family moved to the Panama Canal Zone, where Horace taught classes in the Florida State University branch campus. He also worked in administration for the Panama Canal Co. as an environmental specialist. The family returned to the U.S. in 1977. He worked various jobs as an environmental advisor for North Carolina and the U.S. Department of Health and Urban Development. He finished his public service with the Department of the Navy in Panama City, Fla. He retired from civil service in 1993.

In 2003, Horace moved back to his hometown of Beaufort. In 2014, he moved to Cypress Glen Retirement Community in Greenville. He maintained his Beaufort home for monthly visits. Horace was a renowned ornithologist specializing in the birds of Panama and Central America. He was a founding member of the Panama Audubon Society and the Panama Anthropological Society. He had many adventures in Panama's Panama's jungles and continued his lifelong passion for birding by traveling to six continents on many birdwatching expeditions during his retirement. His life list of birds seen put him in the top 5% of birders in the world.

Another passion Horace enjoyed was celebrating his Scottish heritage. He helped to found the Clan Henderson

Society. He was the Clan genealogist for many years. He served one term as society president. His greatest interest during his retirement was genealogy, especially for Carteret County and eastern North Carolina. While living in Beaufort in retirement, he became very active with The History Place Museum, now the Carteret County History Museum, in Morehead City. He spent thousands of hours in the museum's genealogical library, helping others trace their family history in the area. Horace loved to travel. In his later years, he enjoyed small ship cruising. He said he could sit in the ship's bow with binoculars in one hand and a "wee dram" in the other and watch the world go by.

Horace is survived by his sons Rex Loftin and wife Karen, and Tomas Loftin; grandchildren, Richard Wilkins and wife Gina, Jeanette Connor and husband James, Ashley Hyman and husband Nat, Daniel Wilkins and wife Kristen, Kevin Loftin, Shawn Wilkins, and Kyle Wilkins; four great-grandchildren; and cousins, Billy Evans and wife Lil, and Tom Halvosa and wife Reina. He was preceded in death by his wife, Janice, and his daughter, Laura.



Nancy Manchester died on December 7, 2020, in Sarasota, Fla., after a long battle with lung cancer. Nancy was a native Rhode Islander who devoted her time to her friends and her career as a teacher and worked for the Department of Defense as an English teacher abroad, such as in Panama and

England. She always kept in contact with her colleagues. She taught at Balboa High School and helped run the Work-Study Program, CWE, from 1987-1989. Nancy moved into the Broadway Promenade in 2007 and participated in the monthly get-togethers and holiday parties. Her specialty was Caesar Salad and Chicken Wings.

Nancy will be fondly remembered for her quick wit, her contagious laughter, and as one tough broad!!! She loved living at the Broadway Promenade and catching up with her many friends in both buildings. Nancy enjoyed traveling, playing cards, Mahjong, red wine, and going to Wings Wednesday. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Digna (Sonny) Rosana Mathews was born September 22, 1936, in Panama City, Panama, to Angelica Alvarado Spector. She left this earthly life on December 12, 2020, to spend eternity with her Lord and Savior. She was a member of Saint John's Episcopal Church in Norman, Okla. Digna was preceded in death by her mother; stepfather Irving Spector; and brother, Herbert

Spector. She is survived by her only son, Lieutenant Colonel Theodore "Ted" Ashford; brother, Norman Spector; sisters Sarah West and Helen Gentry; and grandchildren Nicholas and Alexander. Her hobby was animal rescue.



John Matson was born in Tacoma, Wash., on January 4, 1940. He passed away on June 6, 2020. His grandparents came to the U.S. from Finland. His family moved around the country; California, Utah, and Washington. John grew up in Fort Bragg, Calif. He told many stories about waking up early, grabbing his gun and berry buckets, strapping them to his bicycle, and heading out for the day.

John fell in love with his high school sweetheart Sharon when she jumped on his lap in a car full of teenage friends and told him, "I'll be your girlfriend!" They were together from that moment until she passed away in 1998. Sharon secretly loved John from childhood.

He began his career as a machinist apprentice with the Union Lumber Company. While working for the Union Lumber Company, he worked in the railroad shop, rebuilding the famous Skunk locomotive and all through the sawmill repairing equipment. He performed machinery repairs on the bandsaw they used to saw the large old-growth logs. In 1966, John was looking for career advancement and applied for work overseas on the Panama Canal. He was hired, and they moved to Panama with their three-year-old daughter Kimberly. Sharon was homesick and cried for two years while John began making a career on the Panama Canal. He moved with his family to Gamboa.

John was hired to be a machinist, but soon he found himself operating the Panama Canal Locks towing mules. This was not what he wanted as he was a machinist. He was able to transfer to the Dredging Division in Gamboa. The first day at the new job, he was sent out to the large steam-powered suction Dredge MINDI. Upon boarding the dredge, he was given a job to do that others had failed at. When the Chief inspected the repairs, he was amazed. John did this several times, to the Chief's liking. He was then given full use of all of the Division shop equipment and machined the parts necessary to fix the dredge MINDI. John had earned the position of Machinist Dredge Mindi. John performed many heavy-duty repairs and saved the company a lot of time and money. He repaired bent turbine blades on the main 5000 hp steam turbine. He used a torch to heat and shrink the blades. The repairs would have involved dismantling and shipping the rotor to the U.S. His mechanical abilities were greatly appreciated.

He advanced his career with the Canal Company to an engineering position in the engine department. John acquired his Marine Engineering license and stood watches on board the MINDI and other Panama Canal Equipment, such as dipper dredges and floating cranes. Most of his later career was on the floating crane, HERCULES, which he was Chief Engineer.

John was Vice President of the Residence Advisory Committee for Gamboa. He also testified on behalf of Panama Canal Employee's in Washington D.C. during the Panama Canal Treaty negotiations. During his time off, he enjoyed boating, fishing, diving, off-roading, and gardening. John was baptized in the Fort Bragg Baptist Church and later

joined and became a Chagres River Baptist Church member in Gamboa, Panama. He served the church as a Sunday School Teacher and took turns with the other men in the church working in the church missions in Panama. John Matson was an honorable, hardworking Christian man, loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

He has been reunited with his wife Sharon, his mother Gwen, his father Hake, and church family members in Heaven. He is survived by his older brother, Bill Matson, and younger brother Jim Matson. He is also survived by his daughter Kimberly McLaughlin, his son-in-law Barry McLaughlin, grandson Jonathan McLaughlin, his wife, Gretchen, and his two great-grandsons John "Gunner" and Luke "Archer," and his granddaughter Kelsey McLaughlin. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



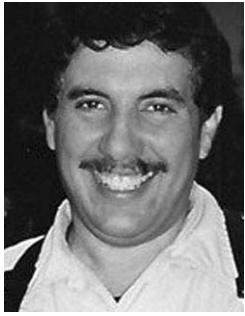
Karen J. (Magnuson) O'Neill, 80, of Palm Coast, Fla., passed away on January 15, 2021. She was born on February 3, 1940, in Ancon, Canal Zone in the Republic of Panama. She graduated from Balboa High School in 1958. Karen is survived by her beloved partner, Earl Jensen; daughter and son-in-law Laura and Roy Fox; grandson and wife Michael and Cassie Fox; and great-grandsons Travis and Jackson Fox. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Mildred Louise Rowley, age 78, of Leesburg, Ala., passed away December 12, 2020 at Floyd Medical Center, Rome, Ga. Millie was born in the Panama Canal Zone, grew up in the town of Curundu. She graduated from Balboa High School, class of 1960. She attended Pensacola Jr. College, Pensacola, Fla.

She worked as a dental hygienist for Dr. Charles White and during that time, she met Art Rowley at the Pensacola Naval Air Station. They were married and she took on the duties of a Naval Officers' wife complete with overseas deployments and family relocations to several overseas bases. She worked for the Centre Elementary School as a secretary and school nurse for many years. She was also a Member of Cedar Hill and Centre First United Methodist Church. She will be greatly missed.

Millie was preceded in death by her parents Elvira and Woodrow Dejernette and sister Mary Mattie Dejernette. She is survived by her husband, retired Captain USN Arthur N. Rowley III, Leesburg, Ala.; her sons, Derek Dean Rowley of Mississippi and Brian Thomas Rowley (Samantha) of Texas; her brothers, Woodrow W. Dejernette Jr (Janice) of Panama and Reuben W. Dejernette (Deborah) of North Carolina; grandchildren Emery Arthur, Emily Blu, Avery Nicole and Jaxson Cassius Rowley of Texas.



Louis Robert (Bobby) Sommer, 64, of Fayetteville, Ark. passed away on November 11, 2020. He was born on August 15, 1956 in San Juan, Costa Rica, the son of Francis Thompson and Louis Sommer Sr. He graduated from Balboa High School with the class of 1975. He was retired from Sears. His interests included listening to big band music, working on cars and attending antique car shows.

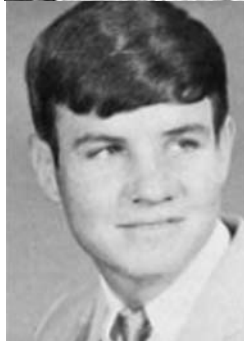
Louis is survived by his daughter, Cassie Zeiler of Fayetteville and his son, Michael Sommer of Fayetteville. He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Patricia Sommer. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



John Steiner passed away on November 11, 2020, in Tallahassee, Fla. John was born on July 13, 1949, in Colon, Republic of Panama. He graduated from Balboa High School with the Class of 1967.

Right out of high school, John received an electrical apprenticeship from the Panama Canal Company. After a few years, he decided to go to the University of Florida where he received a Math degree. After college, John moved to Tallahassee where he worked and retired for the U.S. Postal Service as a Maintenance Technician. John enjoyed living in Tallahassee, attending Reunions, and staying in touch with his CZ friends.

In July of 2020, John had a fall and broke his hip. His hip was operated on and he was on the mend, but he caught COVID-19 while in the hospital. John was a fighter and he faced things worse than the virus and bounced back. In true spirit, he survived the virus. Unfortunately, the cumulative effect of major surgery, diabetes, and the COVID-19 slowly wore John down. He was not able to return home and was transferred to a rehabilitation facility. John, the fighter, winner of numerous previous bouts with death, finally put down his gloves. Rest in peace, John. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Capt. **Wilber Vantine's** 95-year voyage concluded gently on December 3, 2020, at Amara Hospice in Edinburg, Texas. His death was due to complications from congestive heart failure. He died surrounded by Maria, her husband, her children, and his faithful best friend Fritz, the Manchester terrier.

He was born in Quannah, Texas, on March 16, 1925, to stock farmer John Theodore Vantine and Lola Blanche Kerley. Van was primarily raised by his sister Blanche Vantine in Missouri after his mother's death in Van's infancy.

In 1944, 19-year old U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Midshipman Wilbur Harris Vantine had the wartime fears of

all seamen - storms, U-boat torpedos, and Imperial warplanes. American Merchant Marine had a casualty rate surpassing the Army and Navy, after all. But after being ordered to self-report 25 demerits for having fallen asleep in a class on Naval Courts and Boards, it was a foregone conclusion that, once the report was processed, the soon-to-be top scholar in his section would be expelled. The number of demerits exceeded the limit. His name would be posted any day on the 'Mast List' for expulsion. Van, the name his peers called him, later wrote that it never crossed his mind to request leniency; he chose to take the humiliation of expulsion as well as he could. However, an unknown midshipman later informed Van that the Vantine demerit report had 'slipped' out of the report box as the unknown midshipman fished out his own report. The demerits were never processed. Van graduated atop his section in 1945. Upon graduation from the Academy, Van was commissioned in the Navy Reserve, joined the Merchant Marine, and served on tramp freighters in various capacities until 1957.

At age 26, Van obtained his Master Mariner license. He married Dorothy Marie Schneck of Sedalia, Missouri, in 1956 and became step-father to 14-year old Dewey Blaine Whittaker. Though Capt. Vantine had no offspring of his own; he informally adopted Dewey.

Van defined the stages of his life as 'before Dorothy,' 'with Dorothy,' and 'without Dorothy.' The photos from their lives in Panama (1957-1997) reveal their extensive joint travels and their involvement in Canal Zone and expatriate activities and causes. Van's interests included astronomy, photography, ship bridge design, expert pistol marksmanship, and Macintosh computers. From 1957 to 1983, Capt. Vantine served as a Panama Canal Pilot. His work: to temporarily take the bridge of a large vessel and expertly conduct an ever-changing orchestra of sailors, tug captains, and engine room workers through the congested confines of the locks, cuts, and sea traffic lanes of the Canal. Each full transit took 8 to 12 hours.

Van's employment and service records were spotless except for one seeming blemish—a reprimand for having led the Panama Canal Pilots Association through a series of creative, successful strikes against the U.S. Government for safer work conditions in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The union collectively, and with scrupulous precision, performed their duties 'by the book.' The effect was to slow Canal operations; D.C. and the NYSE took notice. Van's efforts resulted in safer work conditions at the Canal, higher pay, and better benefits for the pilots. Eventually, the reprimand was rescinded. Van later remarked that it took a lot of bureaucratic mischief to turn a lifelong Republican into a labor union president.

Dewey married Maria Concepción Molina Monreal in 1970, and the couple had two children before Dewey died in 1980. Van invested Dewey's life insurance proceeds and used them to fund Dewey's children's education. Van and Dorothy considered Maria their own and encouraged her to love again. Maria remarried, and her children and step-children regard Van as their grandfather.

Just before Jimmy Carter surrendered the Canal Zone to Panama, Van and Dorothy moved into Panama City, became expatriates, and resided in a series of apartments overlooking the Bay of Panama. After early retirement in 1983, Capt.

Vantine continued working as a marine consultant and part-time oil tanker pilot until 1997. In 1989, 44 years overdue, the U.S. Government recognized Capt. Vantine's maritime war service with veteran status.

By 1997, Capt. Vantine and his bride retired to the Tucson Foothills in Arizona, where Dorothy suffered a stroke the following year. Shortly after that, Van and Dorothy moved to McAllen, Texas, to be near Maria. Over the next 11 years, as Dorothy's health declined, Van served as her caretaker. In her final weeks, to have Dorothy pass in the presence of loved ones, Van rented rooms in the home of Maria's CNA relatives. He said of the stroke, "It took my best friend." Their marriage lasted 52 years.

After Dorothy's death, Van continued to reside in McAllen. During this time, he promoted his 2005 memoir, resumed his pistol marksmanship, and took up yoga.

Capt. Vantine's remains shall be interred next to Dorothy at Heritage Valley Memorial Park, Coolidge, Arizona. Capt. Vantine's professional associations: Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (Panel H-10, Ship Controllability); The Marine Society of the City of New York (Life Member); the Council of American Master Mariners; Navy League of the United States (served five terms as President of the Panama Council); Kings Point Alumni Association (Life Member, Past President of the Panama Chapter and 1945 Class Agent); International Organization of Masters, Mates, and Pilots; and the Panama Canal Pilots Association (Past President). He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Surviving is daughter-in-law Maria C. Maples and son-in-law: Kenneth J. Maples; grandchildren Lennard K. Whittaker, Samara A. Whittaker, Tommy Maples, Sefra Maples, Sarina B. Keller, Jonathan P. Maples, Sasha M. Miller; great-grandchildren Eden Fradkin, Hazel Miller, Edith Maples, Haley Abrams, Marcus Cervantes, Reagan A. Cramer, Sutton Keller, Dean Miller, Olivia Miller, Emery Maples, Sloane Keller; Nieces: Kathy O'Bryhim, Ann Asel; grandnieces and grandnephews: Leslie Besecke, Kelly Besecke, Tim O'Bryhim, Brendan O'Bryhim; great-grandnephew and great-grandnieces Alyson Chatterjees, Julia Chatterjees, Evan Chatterjees.



Frank J Ward, of Sherwood, Oregon passed away at home on January 19, 2021 in the company of his wife. Frank is the son of Leonard and Ernestine Ward of Superior, Wisconsin

Frank's many hobbies included woodworking, computers, gardening, coin collecting, and travel. As a life-long Green Bay Packer fan (sporting a Green Bay helmet tattoo!) he saw his beloved Packers become the North Division Champs. Frank also volunteered as a mentor for boys in the Duluth School System.

Advancing to Sergeant in the Canal Zone Police force in Panama, Frank forged long-lasting friendships and created wonderful memories. He also worked for the FBI Office of Federal Investigation, and returning to Superior, Wisc., for

Fingerhut. He retired in 2012 with Capital One Bank in Oregon.

Frank is survived by his wife, Kathy, and her daughters Liz and Katie Prosnick, daughter Tricia (Mike) Lawrence, sister, Judy (Gordy) Mossberger, brother Mike (Nancy) Ward, grandchildren Ashley, Taylor, Austin, Josh and Lilly, nieces, nephews, cousins, many in-laws and his beloved canine pal, Lucy. Due to Covid restrictions, a celebration of Frank's life will be held at a later date in Superior, Wisc. His kind and gentle spirit will be greatly missed.



Lena Elizabeth Justice Burchett Hill Woods, 95, passed unexpectedly into eternal life on October 20, 2020, resulting from a fall. She was living in Poquoson, Virginia, with her sister at the time of her demise. Prior to that, she was a resident of Pearl River, Louisiana.

She was born in Grahn, Kentucky, the oldest daughter of the late Luther and Celia Justice, and lived in many locations during her marriage to HP Burchett. He pursued a career in the United States Navy, including Indiana, Rhode Island, and the Panama Canal Zone. She was later married to Robert Hill until his death in 1975 and moved from the Canal Zone to Pearl River, Louisiana. After Bob's death, she later married the late William Wood of Pearl River, who passed away in 1984.

She was a Human Resource Specialist for several branches of the United States Government during her life, and she retired from Civil Service in 1984. During her lifetime, she was an avid bowler, bowling until she was well up in her eighties, and received many awards over the years. She also traveled to many state and national bowling tournaments. Lena also enjoyed deep-sea fishing during her years in the Canal Zone. She entered many tournaments and was the winner of many valuable prizes for her winning sailfish and marlin size.

Lena is survived by one son, Richard Burchett, and one daughter, Cheryl Hill Snipes, both of Slidell, Louisiana; four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sisters, Patricia McDowell of Poquoson, Virginia, and Sue Evarts of Escondido, California; and one brother, Terry Justice of Melbourne, Florida; a host of loving nieces and nephews, and many dear and close friends, including Dot Rhinehart of Slidell, Louisiana.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her three husbands, a sister, Anna Justice Nichols, and a grandson. Lena was dearly loved and will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Due to Covid 19 restrictions, a memorial service will be held in Pearl River at a later date. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.