

## 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.



**Elizabeth Anne Flumach Beers** passed away on January 3, 2022.

On July 19, 1968, Elizabeth was born to Robert and Gene Flumach in Balboa, Panama (Canal Zone), the oldest of five children, including her brother Robert, sisters Pam and Catherine, and brother Stephen.

Known as Liz to most who knew her at a young age, she was a bright child who developed interests in books, writing, and music; she loved to sing and play the piano and guitar. Under the guidance of her father, she found strong faith and community in the Catholic Church. She made friends very quickly regardless of nationality or background and grew up naturally learning Spanish fluently and English.

Elizabeth graduated from Balboa High School in 1986, where she met her eventual husband, John Beers. She attended Panama Canal College until joining John in Miami, Florida, where she worked her way through college at the University of Miami and Florida International University and changed her major to Education. In 1991, Elizabeth and John married, as she continued to work and pursue her degree. After attaining her bachelor's degree, she entered the teaching field, primarily teaching reading, and throughout her career, had students ranging from elementary school to college. In 1994 the couple relocated from Miami and purchased their first home in Davie, and Elizabeth taught reading at Pines Middle School and later became Reading Coordinator at Barry University.

In 1996 Elizabeth and John welcomed their first son Matthew. Elizabeth continued her education, receiving her master's degree in Education from Nova Southeastern University. In 1998 the couple was heartbroken when Elizabeth suffered a miscarriage, but in 1999 they welcomed their second son Benjamin and, in 2000, their youngest David. Elizabeth also became more involved in service to the Church, volunteering to bring Holy Communion to the elderly and homebound.

Finding their two-bedroom townhouse becoming cramped for their growing family, when John received a job opportunity in Rockledge, Florida in 2004, the couple moved to Brevard County, where housing was more affordable. Elizabeth continued her teaching career at Cambridge Elementary School but eventually became disenchanted with the public education system and became a part-time adjunct reading instructor at Brevard Community College, later Eastern Florida State College. She remained active in the Church, joining the Lay Carmelites, participating in reading at Mass in small Christian communities, and taught religious education and Vacation Bible School at Our Lady of Lourdes. As the children grew, she and her husband also volunteered in their activities as adult leaders in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts and enjoyed learning outdoor skills along with them.

After Matthew completed elementary school, Elizabeth convinced John that it would be best to home-school the children, despite the strain on finances. She continued a broad and varied education with them for several years, participating in many enriching activities and field trips. When Matthew was self-sufficient enough to complete his secondary education via Florida Virtual School, Elizabeth returned to her part-time adjunct reading instructor position at Eastern Florida State College. Throughout, she continued writing, completing, and self-publishing two books of poetry, *Where God Is* and *At His Feet*. She also expanded her community service, visiting nursing homes to bring Holy Communion and companionship. She began taking some time off to accompany John on some business and personal travel, a luxury the couple had not been able to afford through most of their marriage.

In 2019 Elizabeth left her position to help care for her father, who had been stricken with cancer, until he passed away in June of that year, a heartbreaking loss for the whole family. The 2020 pandemic brought challenges to everyone globally, continuing to this day. As conditions permitted, Elizabeth resumed Church activities and began private tutoring in reading and writing, starting with one student and adding a few more as people recommended her.

At the end of 2021, Elizabeth fell ill to the Coronavirus. Elizabeth is and will be greatly missed by family, the many friends she made throughout her life, and the community she served. Along her journey, no matter what, Liz would befriend anyone she met under any circumstance, spreading joy. The way she always wanted to be remembered was simple: She loved.



**Faith Brundage**, 97, passed away on November 28, 2021. She had Alzheimer's towards the end, but she always talked about the Canal Zone, the Panama Canal Society, the Panama Canal Museum, and her church. She requested the National Cremation Society to take her ashes out to sea.

Faith arrived in the Canal Zone in 1947 and lived on both sides of the Isthmus. In Gatun, she was active in the Coral Chapter of the Order of Eastern Stars and the Gatun Union Church. When Faith left Panama and returned to Boston, Mass., she served as Director of the Suffolk County Massachusetts Association of Insurance Women. Faith became a senior partner and vice president for a large insurance agency.

Faith retired in 1984 and moved to St. Petersburg, Fla., where she became active in the Panama Canal Society and eventually served as President from 1999-2000. For many years in St. Petersburg, she enjoyed singing in her church's

choir. Faith served on the Board of Trustees of the Panama Canal Museum in Seminole and worked as a volunteer in its store. She loved to cruise and was great company when cruising with the Panama Canal Museum. Faith was a member of the Panama Canal Society and the Panama Canal Museum.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Linda Marshall and husband Ben.



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**Charles Edward Chase Jr.**, 81, died in his home in Granbury, Texas, on December 20, 2021. He was born September 28, 1940, to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Chase, Sr. (deceased) of the Panama Canal Zone and raised with his three siblings, Mary Gordon, Fred Chase (deceased), and Patricia Thrift. There is simply not enough room on paper to retell the stories of young Charlie's shenanigans! Safest to say that

his childhood, like the rest of his life, was full of laughter, love, friends, and family.

Charlie was a great storyteller! His favorite one, oft retold, was "The Window." Some of you are already laughing (or groaning!). Telling it briefly, unlike Charlie – the young 24-year-old policeman went to his sister Mary's place of work to pick her up for lunch. When he looked through "the window," he spotted a beautiful brunette and was instantly smitten. That young woman's name was Marilyn Ermish until she finally said yes to his 7th proposal when she became Marilyn Chase. You may also know that this was the start of many stories in their 56 years of marriage, all coming under the umbrella of life with Charlie.

Charlie was proud to have served the US Army, the Canal Zone police, and the federal government in law enforcement. He was proud of his service and law-based careers, so much so that he carried his badge in his wallet until the day he died. (Custody of said badge rests for now with his eldest daughter, Kristen, who will, as agreed, turn custody over to the youngest daughter, Deanne, for six months each year.) He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Charlie is survived by his beloved wife, Marilyn, his daughters, Kristen and Deanne, and their husbands, Martin and Bill. He is also survived by his pride and joy – his grandsons, Chase and Charlie. Yes, both named for him as he would tell and retell all who would listen.

In keeping with his wishes, there will be no services as he has donated his body to science, hoping there may someday be a cure for Alzheimer's. Charlie's story may have ended, but his legacy of love survives with us all. His family and friends (and he never met a stranger) would tell you that only a State as big as Texas had enough room for someone with a heart to match it. Godspeed, Charlie!

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**Robert Allen "Bob" Collins**, 76, of Greenville, passed away peacefully on November 24, 2021, following a long illness. Bob was born June 23, 1945, in North Carolina, the son



of the late Jesse and Thelma Collins.

He married his soulmate, Marsha (Thomas) Bortner, in 1998. Bob was a kind and generous man who was always willing to help others. He led an interesting life with many unique experiences.

He grew up in the Panama Canal Zone. Following his Cristobal High School graduation in 1963, Bob moved to Ohio, where he attended Case Institute of Technology, receiving a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

Bob served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War as a nuclear weapons maintenance specialist and was an excellent marksman earning the sharpshooter badge.

He had a long career at Werner Ladder, serving as an engineering expert for legal cases. His job allowed him to travel to nearly every state and many different countries, which he enjoyed. After all the kids were grown, Bob and Marsha moved to Florida, where they spent free time boating and kayaking.

As grandchildren arrived, they moved back to Pennsylvania and established a hobby farm in Sandy Creek, raising chickens, cows, donkeys, goats, and alpacas.

Bob was preceded in death by his wife in 2014 and a granddaughter, Gabrielle Collins in 2004. He is survived by a son, George (Julie) Collins; daughter Heather (Rick) Testani; step-daughter Jayne (Mike Caszatt) Bortner; and step-sons, Matt Bortner, Elbert (Sherry) Bortner, and Greg (Shannon) Bortner; 18 grandchildren; and brothers, Ron (Betty) Collins and Gary (Connie) Collins.



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**Geraldine "Geri" Davis**, age 82, of Columbus, Georgia, passed away peacefully on November 4, 2021, surrounded by family and friends at Columbus Hospice House.

Geri was born October 1, 1939, in Ancon, Panama Canal Zone. Her best friend of more than 70 years, Judy Howard (Julia Ann May of BHS'57), graduating with Geri from Balboa High School in 1957 in Panama, said, "She was born to be an artist." Geri designed all the school programs, yearbooks, and events in high school. After graduating from Balboa High School, Geri attended Auburn University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in architecture and art in 1961.

Geri then moved home to Dothan, Ala., and was hired as the advertising illustrator for The Dothan Eagles newspaper. Later, she accepted a position at Sears and Roebuck in Dothan as the assistant advertising manager. Here is where she met Charles, who was in the management trainee program. And this is where their love story began. Geri and Charles were married on June 21, 1962, in Dothan, Ala. Charles later was hired through Sears to become an Allstate agent and offered

an opportunity to move to Columbus, Ga.

In 1966, Geri and Charles and their babies Scott and Danni moved to Fountain City. Soon after, babies Chuck and Aimee joined the family. Geri and Charles joined St. Anne Catholic Church in 1966 and were active members throughout the years.

It didn't take long for people to begin to see and experience Geri's gift for art and education. In 1972, she was the interim chair and lead instructor at Chattahoochee Valley Community College. Two years later, she opened the Green Onion Art School and Gallery. Geri later was the Co-Owner and Director of the Academy of Fine Arts with lifelong friend Patty Taylor. In 1976, Geri became the chair and art instructor for St. Anne Elementary School and Pacelli High School. She proudly and lovingly taught students her gift of art for the next 20 years. After her tenure at the Catholic schools, Geri taught college students. She held adult workshops at the Elizabeth Bradley Turner Center for Continuing Education and the Rankin Arts Center.

Along with her art instruction, Geri was also furthering her education. She received her Masters of Science, Counseling and Development Degree from Troy University. She received her teacher's certification in art and an internship in counseling and art therapy at The Bradley Center.

Geri was involved on numerous boards and committees focused on art education. She served as chairman of the board of directors and president of the Joseph House Art Gallery; author and designer of the Endangered Wildflowers of Georgia poster, which educated students in Muscogee County schools about threatened wildflowers in the Peach State. Geri was a member of the National Arts Educators Association, Georgia Arts Educators Association, National League of American Pen Women of which she was the Georgia State president, a signature member of the Georgia Watercolor Society, Watercolor Society of Alabama associate, Mississippi Watercolor Society associate, American Art Therapy associate, Georgia Art Therapy associate, Columbus Artists Guild, and Joseph House Art Gallery chairman. Geri served on the Dean's Advisory Council for the College of Liberal Arts and the Women's Leadership Institute board, both of Auburn University.

Geri designed a poster called "Through These Portals," which depicts the doorways of Auburn University's more prominent buildings. The doorways were painted as they were constructed in the 1800s. Sales from the posters have been donated to the College of Liberal Arts for student scholarships. She was a founding member and board advisor for the Bo Bartlett Center and Columbus State University's Friends of Art and the Gallery on Tenth in Columbus.

Some of Geri's honors and awards include Georgia Watercolor signature membership, first place at Columbus Artists Guild member exhibition, two original works selected for a Washington, D.C., exhibition by the National League of American Pen Women, Best of Show at the Arts on the River and a Historic Art Poster chosen as a fundraiser for the 1999 Olympics.

One of Geri's most loved awards was the Sara Spano/Knight-Ridder Top Teacher Award at the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer Page One Awards. She had the amazing gift to teach. If you were lucky to have been a student of hers, you

know how she inspired everyone to try their best, look at things in a different light and never say "I can't." Her love of teaching and inspiring people was just as respected as her works of art.

Geri was just as devoted and passionate about the love she had for her family. She was happily married for 52 years to the love of her life, Charles. Her four children, Scott, Danni, Chuck, and Aimee, were her most precious gifts. Their Halloween costumes always won first place. They were always a part of Geri's conversations during art classes. Her deep Catholic faith built a strong foundation of selfless giving for them to live by. But soon, the grandchildren took center stage in her heart. Molli has inherited Geri's gift of art and adventure. Will and Ben love BIG like their Nanny. Jonathan is a leader and never says, "I can't." Remi is the free spirit who stole all of Nanny's snuggles while chasing butterflies and smelling flowers in Nanny's gardens.

Geri also loved her Auburn Tigers; the show "Outlander," particularly its star, Sam Heughan; learning about her heritage and finding relatives through Ancestry.com; her beach trips with her friends and finding four-leafed clovers.

In August, Geri received the news that she had Stage IV pancreatic cancer. Although devastating to hear, Geri wanted to fight and focus on slowing the spread of cancer to allow her to spend quality time with family and friends. Over the next several weeks, family, friends, and former students reached out to help her. She and her family were overwhelmed by the outpouring of love. Geri made it very clear to her family and said, "I am not afraid of dying. I just want to spend more time with you."

Even though Geri was only given a short time to be with us after the diagnosis, her legacy will live on. There are so many wonderful stories about how Geri touched so many lives. A mother who is fearless. A grandmother who is dedicated. A teacher who is inspiring and an artist who is timeless.

Geri's philosophy was that art is a powerful means of communication. That which you cannot put into words, you MUST paint!!

Geri was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Lamar Davis, and her parents, Everett and Muriel McGriff. She is survived by her four children, Scott Charles (Capri) Davis, Danni Leigh (William) Harris, Charles Forbes (Julie) Davis, Aimee Elizabeth (Jennifer) Davis; five grandchildren, Molli Laine Harris, William Corbin (Cassidy) Harris, Benjamin Charles Davis, Jonathan Winslow Davis, and Remi Sawyer Davis; her two brothers, Dr. Everett Corbin Jr. and Faye McGriff, and Gene and Sandra McGriff. She was blessed with many nieces and nephews, beloved family friends Bryant and Barbie Perryman, lifelong best friend Judy Howard, and favorite grand-puppy Peaches.



**Betty L. Evans**, 89, of Wylie, Texas, passed away peacefully at home on September 17, 2021, from complications related to Alzheimer's. She was born in Liverpool, England.

Betty was married to the late Capt. Roy T. Evans and moved to the United States in 1955. They lived in

New Orleans, where her four children were born: Michael, David, Cheryl, and Andrew. She and her husband moved to the Canal Zone in 1960, where her husband was a Panama Canal Pilot for 30 years. She and Roy eventually retired in Slidell, Louisiana.

Betty enjoyed entertaining her many friends in both the Canal Zone and Slidell. Her home was always open to having friends and family stopping by at a moment's notice. She was a wonderful and loving grandmother to her nine grandchildren and always made it her mission to have her grandchildren on summer family trips or spend time with her at her home. Betty was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Capt. Roy T Evans of 45 years and her son, Michael T. Evans, age 57.

She is survived by her two sons David T. Evans and Andrew T. Evans; her daughter Cheryl L. Sibson; her nine grandchildren, Tessa Abokhair, Drake Evans, Leah Evans, Matthew Evans, Emma Sibson Jennings, Abby Sibson, Justin Evans, Katie Evans, Lindsey Evans; and her two great-grandchildren Westin Jennings and Asher Abokhair.



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Captain **Donald Prieto Garrido** (USNR) passed away on November 21, 2021, at the age of 94.

Donald was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on October 16, 1927, to Velma (Prieto) Garrido and Salvador Garrido. He began his sea-bound career as a Merchant Marine at the age of 15 aboard the *S.S. War Admiral*. During World War II and the Korean

War, Donald was awarded various service medals for his service. He rose to the rank of Captain with the U.S. Navy. He was awarded the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award for his participation in the rescue of the Italian Ship *S.S. Tripolitania*.

Donald was raised as a Master Mason in Zeredatha Lodge No. 131 in Jersey City, N.J. in 1952. During his 69 years of active Masonry, he served as Worshipful Master of Cibolo Lodge No. 151, presiding officer in all three York Rite Bodies, presiding officer in all four Scottish Rite Bodies, and Wolcott Foundation Trustee. He was decorated a 33rd degree Mason and elected to the rank of Grand Cross of the Court of Honour. He was a Past Potentate of Abou Saad Temple in the Canal Zone, Panama, and was very active in the High Twelve International. Donald received the Golden Trowel Award in 2019.

A job opportunity led Donald to the Republic of Panama, and he called Panama home for most of his life. He rose to the position of Chief Pilot with the Panama Canal Commission and retired in 1994 after 32 years of service. Donald completed his education at Florida State University.

During his time in the Canal Zone, Donald served as the Chairman of the Crippled and Burned Children's Committee for Central and South America. He helped coordinate for hundreds of children from impoverished areas to receive prosthetics and burn treatment in Texas.

Donald and his wife, Lydia, retired in San Antonio, Texas. They enjoyed traveling, family time, good friends, and dim sum most Sundays. He was a member of the Panama Canal

Society.

Donald will always be remembered as the beloved husband of 51 years of Lydia Garrido; loving father of Lydia Garrido Robledo, and Ronald Garrido, Darnella Behrens, Kira Fischer; loyal brother of Wendy Rein, and Harold Pluche; proud grandfather "Papa" of Lorena Robledo, Joaquin Robledo, Barbara Bohne, Viola Seibert, Helena Behrens, Matthias Kelle, Aaron Garrido, Celeste Garrido, and Andrew Garrido; great-grandfather of Alexander Bohne, Juri Seibert, and Mira Seibert.



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**Paul Doug Gibbs**, 86, from Panama Canal Zone, died October 10, 2021 in Mountain Home, Arkansas. He was born April 6, 1935, in Miami, Florida.

He leaves his wife, Camille Overall Gibson-Gibbs; and sons Paul D. (Doug) Gibbs, Jr. of Spain and Warren Gibbs of Florida; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

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**Mary 'Holly' Hebert Hilden**, a resident of the Hillsboro community, died gently at home on October 12, 2017.

Holly was born December 20, 1939, in the Republic of Panama and raised and schooled in the Panama Canal Zone. She was the daughter of the late Walter Holly Hébert and Katherine Louise (Morse) Hébert.

As a young woman, Holly danced for the Panama National Ballet Company. This included dancing in small Panamanian Villages and at the National Concert Hall in Panama City.

In 1958 she took a banana boat to New Orleans and began her higher education at Louisiana State University. She later transferred to the University of Oregon in Eugene, where she met and married Grant Ellis Hilden on August 4, 1962. They later moved to Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, where the family lived and worked for some years, and two of their children were born. They resided in Forest Grove until 2014 when they moved to their current home in Hillsboro. Holly was co-owner, with husband Grant, of Hilden Oil Company.

Holly was a great supporter of the Democratic Party and enjoyed travel, genealogy, watching college baseball, and the family cat, "Munson." Above all, Holly had a fierce love for family and stayed close to all until the very end of her life.

Survivors include husband Grant; daughter and son-in-law, Gwyn Moira Hilden and Jeff Swift, of Forest Grove; her two sons and daughters-in-law, Jeffrey Leif Hilden and Robyn Hilden, of Lake Oswego, and Douglas Sven Hilden and Meagan Jossy of Hillsboro; and her two sisters and brother-in-law, Katherine Myers of Kinder, Louisiana, and Jeannine and David Wilder, of Guntersville, Alabama; five grandchildren: Ethan and Naomi Swift, of Forest Grove; Ava and Jackson Hilden, of Lake Oswego; and Aubree Hilden of Hillsboro, as well as nieces and nephews scattered about the country.



**Isabel M. Hoard**, age 90, passed to eternity peacefully at home in Albrook, Panama, on March 13, 2021.

She was born in Nicaragua, but her family moved to Panama in 1934 to build an alligator leather factory in Panama Viejo, close to the old Spanish colonial ruins. As the factory prospered, the family purchased a large tract of land that included many colonial archaeological buildings. Prior to 1945, most of the factory's products were exported to the U.S. After WWII, a retail store was added to the factory to cater to the tourist industry fueled by the Canal. At that time, a 15-foot alligator hung over the doorway to the store that became its hallmark.

Isabel went to high school in Boston and finishing school at Lake Champlain, N.Y. Upon returning to Panama, she continued working at the store. One day a friend invited Isabel to a party at Gorgona beach, which she gladly accepted to break the monotony of attending to tourists all day long. The evening was fast approaching, and her friend showed no intention of returning to Panama City. Luckily, Isabel noticed a young man walking to his car, and she rushed up to him to ask for a ride home. During the drive to the city, the man hardly spoke at all, but she liked his scent. That evening the man noticed that Isabel had left her wet bathing suit under the car seat. The next day the man went back to Isabel's home to return it. Isabel's mother, Rosita, answered the door and told him that Isabel wasn't home, but he should return tomorrow at the same time, and Isabel will be waiting for him.

That evening Rosita told Isabel that she would be marrying that man, even though Isabel already had a boyfriend. Isabel cried all night. The next day Jack (that was his name) came back to meet the Martinez family. And a few months later – the year was 1951 – Isabel married Jack Hoard (1922-1995). The couple moved to Curundu, and in 1968 they moved to Fort Clayton.

In the mid-1960s, Isabel co-founded the GFU Yoga Institute in Panama City and taught yoga classes at the Curundu Teen Club. In 1980, she established a GFU Yoga center in Miami, Fla. In 1986, Isabel participated in a GFU Kumba Mela walking-pilgrimage to Machu Pichu. Isabel had to carry all her provisions and sleeping bag on her back all the way to the peak, no easy task for a woman of 98 pounds! But that's what yoga is all about, mind over matter. It's how Isabel celebrated her life to the very end.

Surviving Isabel are her children Jose, Corinne, Catherine, and John.



**Carol Sergeant Hoover**, 89, passed away in Camarillo, California, on October 15, 2021.

She was born and raised in the former Panama Canal Zone. Her parents were Bea Sergeant, natural father Phil Thornton, and her step father Captain Richard Sergeant. She graduated from Balboa High School class of 1949 and



Canal Zone Junior College in 1951, where music was her favorite activity. Carol graduated from Syracuse University in New York in 1953 and lived in California since then. She taught high school business subjects for several years and enjoyed executive assistant work.

She was the granddaughter of Roosevelt Medal Holders Frank C. Parsons, and William R. Sergeant. Carol was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Howard Hoover, sons Craig of Bethesda, Maryland and Randy of Boston, Mass., three granddaughters, one great-grandson, and her sister, Kaye Sergeant.



**Hubert Jordan** passed away on Christmas morning, December 25, 2021, at the age of 86. He had suffered advancing dementia due to Alzheimer's disease for several years.

He was born on October 26, 1935, at Coco Solo Hospital in the Canal Zone. He was the son of Robert Lee Jordan and Lucy Sudron. After graduating from Balboa High School in 1953, he attended Canal Zone College. Then joined the U.S. Army on October 1, 1958.

Hubert married Lois Stevens in October 1961, and they had three children, Hubert, Shawn, and Keith.

He was honorably discharged from the Army in 1964 and returned to the Canal Zone, where he worked as a Senior Control House Operator for the Marine Bureau, then as Locks

Operation Foremen. He had over 33 years of service when he retired on October 25, 1990.

Hubert married Margot Jordan on May 15, 1995. After retiring, they left Panama, and Hubert and Margot bought their first and only house and settled in Tampa, Florida. Being a baker, Margot started a cookie business out of their home and sold them to local golf courses. Hubie was by her side all the way. He did all the deliveries and, of course, was the official cookie taster. After they retired from the business, Hubie went to work for Babe Zaharias Golf Club, where he got to enjoy a game he loved for free.

Hubie was always at Margot's side at the reunion golf tournaments doing whatever needed to be done. He helped pick out, buy, and deliver all the prizes for the golf tournament. Hubie always looked forward to his weekly golf matches with his Panama buddies, Windy Sasso, Will Nickisher, Jack Hern, Doug Reeder, to name a few.

Even more than golf, Hubert missed fishing with his buddies. He always showed off his fish pictures and trophies to anyone who came to the home. Some of the trophies Hubie won were the Governor's Marlin Tournament in 1960 and the 80-pound amberjack he caught in 1980 at Pinas Bay on a 50-

pound line. Unfortunately, when he retired, he put fishing behind him. Now his son Keith does the fishing.

Hubert is survived by his three children, Hubert, Shawn, and Keith, and Margot's three children, Michael, Patrick, and Nancy. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



**Kyle Kosik** passed away on January 4, 2022, in Newton, Alabama. He was born in Gorgas Hospital, Ancon, Canal Zone in Panama on October 23, 1960.

Kyle lived the life he wanted to live. His own rules and lived under the radar, he didn't believe in rules and directions. He had many friends in Panama, Newton, Ala., and Dothan, Ala. He treasured his friendships and the many memories of Coronado, Contadora, El Valle, the Slide, boating, and the Causeway. During his youth, Kyle played football, baseball, and rugby. He was a very good athlete, and many people admired him. Kyle was a quiet man but an observer. He would talk with wit and some truth; everyone stopped to listen. It made sense. He became the life of the party. Kyle was a sportsman, outdoorsman,

political man and loved his wife, son, grandsons, mother nature, and his dogs. Kyle graduated from Balboa High in 1978 and attended Canal Zone College for two years. He left Panama in 1983 and moved to Tampa to live with his grandmother for a year. Then he moved to Tallahassee, Fla., with a few friends from home. His next move was to Alabama, where he found his permanent home in Newton, Ala.

Kyle received his Airframe & Powerplant (A&P) certification in 1985 and ultimately obtained his FAA Inspection Authorization (I.A.) certification. He was employed as an Aircraft Mechanic for helicopters in Ft. Rucker, Ala, since 2003. Kyle also served as an overseas contract mechanic supporting the U.S Army's missions in Afghanistan from 2006-2008. From 2009 until the present, Kyle served as an A&P Instructor at the Alabama Aviation College in Ozark, Ala. Over the years, he had traveled to Hawaii, Alaska, Colorado, and a few other places in his lifetime to see some old friends and for work. Kyle loved his lifestyle, playing in the woods, in the creek, on his 4-wheelers, trucks, deck-bar, and enjoyed campfires with family and friends. That was his life.

Kyle was a member of the Mason Lodge in Newton, Ala., and the Panama Canal Society.

Kyle's family will cherish his memories: his wife Olivia Rhodes-Kosik; son Kalen Kosik; grandchildren Quinn Kosik and Everett Kosik; his sister Laura Kosik; nieces Candace Anderson Reed, Jacquelyn Anderson, and Elizabeth Anderson; great-niece Jailyana Anderson and cousins Charles Leves and Gene Leves. He was preceded in death: his parents August (Gus) Kosik and Nina Brown, and his grandmother Emma (Brown) Van Clief.



**Alfred (Al) Ernest Joseph Lombana**, Ph.D, passed away October 13, 2021.

Al was born March 30, 1936, in Panama, Republic of Panama. He graduated from Balboa High School in the Panama Canal Zone in 1954 and completed an apprenticeship for the Panama Canal Company in the trade of Powerhouse Operator in July of 1958. Later he enlisted in the US Army serving three years' active duty and then in the Reserves. In 1964, he graduated from St. Petersburg Junior College; in 1965, he earned a Bachelors in Business Administration from University of South Florida; in 1967, he earned a Master's degree at Florida State University; and in 1970, earned a Ph.D. in Student Personnel Services in Higher Education, also from Florida State University.



He applied his educational training and talents as the Administrator of Osceola Residence Hall at Florida State University, Dean of Students at Florida International University in Miami, professor at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, a Director of Training and Development at Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Jacksonville and in HR at Northeast Florida State Hospital in MacClenny.

Al was a member of the Panama Canal Society for many years and served on the board of the Panama Canal Museum. He was a long-time member of San Jose Catholic Parish where he volunteered as a "very welcoming" greeter, and was an active 4th Degree Knight in the parish's Knights of Columbus council. An avid Florida State University (FSU) Seminoles fan, and a member of the boosters' club for many years, Al proudly sported an FSU license plate on his car and later an FSU vanity plate on his walker. He was a loyal friend to many and loved dearly by his large extended family and friends.

He is survived by his son David Lombana and wife, Daphne and son Andy Lombana and wife, Carmen; grandchildren Daniel and Emily Lombana and his siblings Grace Welch, Lou Lombana, Mary Hartwell and husband J. Wylie, Joyce Aragno and husband Albino; many nieces and nephews as well as grandnieces and grandnephews. David, Andy, Daniel and Emily truly were the loves of his life.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Alfredo and Leonor Lombana and brother-in-law, Gerard (Jerry) Welch.



**Robert Caldwell "Bob" Morrison**, 98, died on November 4, 2021, at St. Vincent's Hospice Care in Jacksonville, Fla. Bob recently celebrated his 98th birthday with his four children, two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. His place of burial will be next to his wife,

Margaret Elizabeth Bear, in Green Hill Cemetery in her hometown of Churchville, Va.

Bob Morrison was born August 28, 1923, in Richmond, Va., the son of Robert Hall Morrison and Lura Caldwell Morrison. In 1941, Robert left his undergraduate studies at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, to enlist in the U.S. Navy. He was commissioned as a Navy lieutenant junior grade, serving in the Pacific until the end of World War II. He returned to Virginia to finish undergraduate work in chemical engineering at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia.

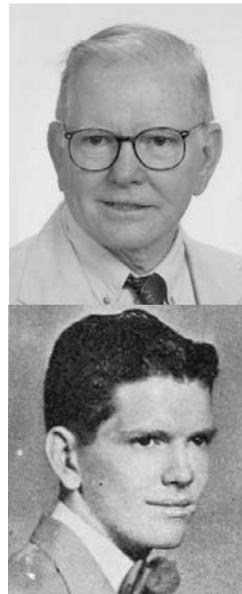
Bob married Margaret Elizabeth "Teddy" Bear of Churchville, and began working with Standard Oil of New Jersey at their Bayway Refinery. He worked with Esso in New York City and Miami, before moving to the Panama Canal Zone as manager of Esso Marine Supply Co., fueling ships transiting the canal. All five of his children graduated from Balboa High School in the Canal Zone.

Bob and Teddy retired in 1982 and moved to Ormond Beach, Fla. After Teddy's death in 1989, Bob married Beverly Mizrahi in 1993. In 2014, Bob and Beverly moved to a retirement community in DeLand, Fla. After Beverly's death in 2015, Bob continued living in DeLand until his move to Jacksonville, Fla., in 2021.

Bob and Teddy were actively involved as leaders in many organizations throughout their lives, including the Balboa Union Church, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, the Navy League, and the United Way. He and Teddy received the highest awards in Scouting and the Distinguished Service Award for their volunteer work in the Panama Canal Zone. Bob's service in the Navy League earned him a place in the Navy League's Hall of Fame. He was also a lifelong member of the Presbyterian church, serving in many roles throughout his life. Robert C. Morrison was the grandson of the Rev. Robert Morrison, one of six founders of Phi Delta Theta, and he remained a lifelong and honored member of his fraternity. After retirement, he helped with the founding of a chapter at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Known casually as Bob Morrison, he enjoyed meeting people and was never shy to engage strangers in conversation. He often volunteered to organize presentations or events around federal holidays. He consistently retold the history of Phi Delta Theta, actively attended a weekly Men's Bible Study, and he would humorously surprise his grandchildren on their visits costumed as some character they would know.

Bob was preceded in death by his first wife, Teddy; his second wife, Beverly; his eldest daughter, Betsy Vosburgh (Dave); and son-in-law Clay Simmons. Surviving him are his children Nancy Morrison, Robert Foltz-Morrison (Leslie), Marilou Simmons, and Bill Morrison (Melody); his grandchildren, Deanna Vosburgh Reynolds, Samuel Brown IV, Michael Brown, Daniel and Andrew Foltz-Morrison and Keara Simmons; and nine great-grandchildren.



**James J. O'Donnell** passed away peacefully at age 93 in St. Petersburg, Florida. Born in Panama in 1928, he lived life to its fullest with adventures of all kinds in the jungles and rivers of Panama, and rose to become Chief Power Dispatcher for the operations of the Panama Canal Zone. Jim also served as a union leader and was the principal negotiator for the rights of canal employees during the drafting of the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977.

At Balboa High School in the Panama Canal Zone, Jim played on the football team and was elected class president. But more importantly, it was there that he met and courted the love of his life, his future wife,

Gemma Wright, with whom he had four children: Jim, Joe, Mary and Steve.

In the summers before his junior and senior years in high school, Jim "shipped out" on commercial vessels that came through the canal. Because at times these ships sailed into theaters of war carrying provisions for the allies in World War II, the U.S. retrospectively designated such seafarers as Merchant Marines and Congress honored them with medals for being critical to the war effort. After shipping out, and for the duration of the war, Jim signed up with the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve in the Canal Zone.

Upon graduating from Balboa High School in 1947, Jim enrolled in the Canal Zone's apprentice program for electricians. His early days as an electrician involved late night shift work on the generators at Madden Dam which controls the flow of water to the canal and which provides power to the locks and surrounding community. Jim's children benefited from the probably illicit tours he gave inside the walls of the dam with tons of water per second crashing overhead. Jim also took his kids in the dark of night to scale down the side of the dam to stand on the spillway platform to fish for the elusive 8-foot tarpons glinting off the moonlight in the waters below.

Jim later rose in his profession to become the Chief Power Dispatcher for the Panama Canal Zone. One of his major accomplishments was the early adoption of computerized technology for the electrical system. When his kids would ride their bikes down to the power station to bring him his dinner, he would show them this one particular button on the computer panel that had the capacity to make the whole Panama Canal go dark. Talk about impressing your kids.

Jim served as president and in other leadership roles for the Canal Zone based chapters of the AFL-CIO and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. When President Carter and President Torrijos of Panama were drafting the treaty that would relinquish U.S. control over the canal, Jim became the principal representative for the rights of canal workers who would lose their jobs under the treaty. Traveling several times to lobby before the U.S. Congress, Jim and others were able to secure favorable pension packages among other concessions that were not included in orig-

inal drafts of the treaty. Jim often credited his wife Gemma for her strategic planning and for her writing skills that were central to his union work.

Throughout his life in Panama, Jim made the most of this tropical paradise. He hunted in the jungles for deer, wild pig and other small game with both crossbow and shotguns for which he make his own bullets. Sometimes he hunted at night on deserted muddy backroads with him driving the jeep without headlights and one of his sons sitting on the hood with a head lamp and rifle. There are many stories of him getting lost for hours in the jungle with his hunting dogs. He fished and went skin diving with spear guns in the oceans, lakes and rivers of Panama. And he and Gemma made sure their kids were raised with a menagerie of animals. At any given time, the O'Donnell house had raccoons, snakes, ducks, horses, and monkeys, in addition to the many cats and dogs.

Upon retirement, Jim and Gemma moved to St. Petersburg, Florida. Jim became active in the Panama Canal Society (a non profit serving U.S. employees who worked in the Panama Canal Zone) serving a term as president and writing the legislative column for the society's publication. He also really enjoyed his time with the American Merchant Marines Veteran's Association.

The Panama Canal Museum at the University of Florida conducted an interview of Jim about his time and leadership role in the Panama Canal Zone. This can be listened to under their Oral Histories section: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/collections/ohpcm/results?q=o'donnell>.

Jim also wrote a book of memoirs of his time in Panama; the stories range from funny to poignant, to hard-to-believe-it's true. Although unpublished at this time, his family plans to donate the manuscript to the Panama Canal Museum.

Jim is predeceased in death by his wife, Gemma and his three sons, Jim, Joe and Steve. He is survived by his daughter Mary and granddaughter Erin, as well as his brothers Bob and Tom. Most importantly, the family would like to thank and honor Louis Gaines for being dad's caretaker for the last six years of this life. Without Louis dad would not have been able to continue relishing life up to the last.



**Marjorie Fromel Sherry**, wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, and friend to many, passed away quietly in her sleep from ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) at her home in Zephyrhills, Fla., on October 3, 2021. Known as Margie by her family and friends, she was the only child born to Arthur and Irma Fromel, on April 24, 1934, in Patterson, N.J.

While Margie and her girlfriends enjoyed the last summer weekend at Asbury Park, N.J, she met Charles "Art" Sherry (CHS'51) and a couple of his Army buddies at the Boardwalk. Art was stationed at Ft. Monmouth, attending Radar School. Margie became quite smitten with Art and thought it might be nice to hear from him again. She gave Art a dime, her work phone number, and a special code number so he could get his dime back! (It was always fun to hear Mom tell that story with a twinkle in her eye and a smile on her face!)

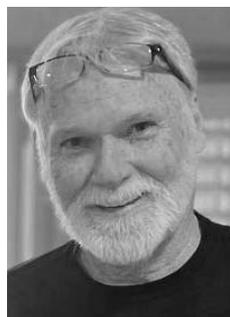
Margie and Art were married on May 26, 1956, in Paterson, N.J., and began their new life driving across the country, sightseeing, and meeting some of Art's family and friends. Their eventual and final destination was Margarita, Canal Zone, where Art would finish his apprenticeship with the Panama Canal Company. It was the beginning of their 50-year stay in Panama and the Canal Zone.

During those wonderful 50 years, Margie was very involved in the Youth and Women's bowling associations, serving as Secretary/Treasurer for the Women's 600 Club, Women's Classic League, and the Junior Bowling Association. She was one of many coaches for the Bantam, and Junior/Senior bowling leagues as her children moved from one league to the next. (For us kids, it was always fun to try to beat "our Coach" and get our "I Beat My Coach" patch!)

Besides bowling, she was an assistant troop leader for her daughters' Brownie and Junior Girl Scout troops. One thing you could always count on was Margie's unselfish time and support for her children and grandchildren. From football, baseball, soccer, basketball, and lacrosse games to swimming meets, bake sales, cayuco races; and, if there were no scheduled sporting events or other activities, wonderful weekends at Coronado Beach with her children and their friends.

Margie also enjoyed playing card games with family and friends. Bridge and Pinocle were her favorite "adult" time games, and you could always count on playing Continental Rummy, "May I," or Chase-the-Ace at family dinners and visits!

Margie is survived by her husband, Charles "Art" Sherry; their children, Karen (BHS'75) (Barry) Winters, Linda (BHS'79), Arthur (BHS'82) and his wife Tamara Matheney (BHS'89), Mark (BHS'88), and his wife, Michelle Coon; three grandchildren, Victoria, Ryan and Justin; and two step-grandchildren, Shannon and Christy. We miss her greatly! She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



**Randall Richard Smith**, known affectionally as Randy to his family and friends, passed away in Deland, Fla. on September 21, 2021, at Halifax Hospital in Deltona, Fla. due to COVID.

Randy is survived by his two children: McKenzie and Zachary Smith, his two younger sisters, Teresa Smith Autry, Jeannie Smith Crawley, and his older brother Doug Smith. Randy was preceded in death by his wife Sondra and younger brother Ricky.

Born on May 15, 1950, in Panama City, Republic of Panama, Randy grew up in the Panama Canal Zone and graduated from Cristobal High School in 1968, where he was very popular - everybody knew Randy. He loved the outdoors, fishing, exploring the tropical jungle, hunting, swimming, and sports, particularly basketball, in which he took great delight in beating his brothers-in-law.

After high school, Randy followed his brother Doug and enlisted in the United States Air Force. One of his first duty stations was in Maine, a significant climate change for a boy who grew up in the tropics.

After leaving the service, Randy moved to Ft. Lauderdale, where the US Post Office employed him, and eventually transferred to Deland, Fla. He met his beautiful wife, Sondra, built a beautiful home on 10 acres in a rural setting, and raised his two children, paternal twins McKenzie and Zach.

Randy was known for his sense of humor, good looks, and giving heart. He had many friends, and for years, his father, Doug, and his mother, Anita, also lived in Deland along with a sister and a brother, nieces, nephews, and a grandnephew. Nephews had to go through Randy's rite of passage, but nieces were exempt and treated like princesses. One of Randy's hobbies was wildlife photography. He could often be seen at the wildlife preserve where he took awesome wildlife photos, many he posted on Facebook.

Randy had a loving heart and was ready with a helping hand for those in need. Randy will forever be missed. A celebration of Randy's life is planned at the 2022 Panama Canal Society Reunion. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



**David Edward Tate, 80**, died April 8, 2021, after a battle with acute myeloid leukemia. He was born June 23, 1940, in the Republic of Panama. Son of the late Jesse DeWitt Tate and Ethel Westman Tate, he grew up in the Panama Canal Zone with his parents, his older sister Louise, and numerous pets, including his beloved Javelina, Moochie. An avid outdoorsman from childhood onward, he spent many

happy hours hunting and fishing in and around the Canal Zone.

After graduation from Balboa High School, he journeyed to Atlanta, Georgia. There he saw his first snowfall and completed Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Mechanical Engineering. Named the Pi Tau Sigma Outstanding Senior in Mechanical Engineering, another highlight was a blind date with Jane Johnston. Instantly appealing to one another, they were married in December 1963.

The couple journeyed to Fort Benning, Georgia, to serve his Army commitment in the Army Corps of Engineers. Along the way, David earned the coveted Paratrooper Wings, completing five jumps, including a night jump. Additionally, he attained the marksmanship rating of Expert with the M14 rifle and the .45 automatic pistol. He was deployed to Vietnam in 1965 and made a safe return in 1966. After his honorable discharge from the Army, David and Jane moved to Spartanburg, S.C. David and Jane commenced a lifelong affiliation with First Presbyterian Church at that time.

The family expanded with three energetic sons, and by 1972, David was ready to go into business for himself, founding Tate Metalworks in April 1972. By dint of hard work and much skill, David and Jane grew the business over the years. David stepped aside as President of the company in 2013 and handed the reins over to his son Brian.

Although fully engaged at work, David made time for his church, serving First Presbyterian as Elder, Deacon, Sunday School teacher, and on a host of committees. Additionally, he

and Jane were both heavily involved with Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, with David serving as scoutmaster and with all three Tate boys attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

Jane died in 2013, and David stayed busy with outdoor and family pursuits. In the meantime, a family friend arranged a date with the lovely widow Betty Reagan. Eventually, they were married, and a harmonious new family unit was created, now expanded to three children, two step-children, and eight grandchildren.

No summary of David's living life to the utmost is complete without discussing his mechanical and outdoor pursuits. He assembled and disassembled entire cars, skillfully conceived, designed, and fabricated complex custom pressure vessels. He caught a 70-pound tarpon on a fly rod and took a 300-pound grouper with a spear gun while Scuba diving. A masterful hunter, he pursued feral hogs from a helicopter in Western Texas, used thermal imaging on foot to carry out successful night hunts for feral hogs, and built his own muzzle-loaders - successfully used to take deer. Living life to the maximum, this one-man episode of Wild Kingdom made his own free-range sausage that is the stuff of family legend. A vital element of all of Dad's adventures was that all of them took place accompanied by his sons and grandsons so that all of these epic occasions became joyous family outings.

Predeceased by his first wife, Jane Johnston Tate, parents Jesse Dewitt and Ethel Westman Tate, and sister Louise Tate Schlegel, he leaves behind an expansive and loving family unit. Surviving family includes sons, David Tate, Jr. (Danielle) of Louisville, Ky., Grant Tate (Becky) and Brian Tate (Jeannie), both of Spartanburg, S.C., Jay Reagan (Mary Ladd) of Charlotte, N.C., and Kelley Reagan of Charleston, S.C. Grandchildren include David Tate III, Elizabeth, and Katherine Tate of Louisville, Kentucky, Evie Tate of Missoula, Montana, Maron Tate of Los Angeles, Calif., Abby Moss of Beaufort S.C., Joshua Moss of Inman, S.C., John Reagan, and Anne Palmer Reagan of Charlotte, N.C, Antonio Santana (Destiny), Miko Santana (Bekah) and Timothy Durham, all of Louisville, Kentucky. A recent joyful addition is a great-grandson Dixon Ray Santana of Louisville, Kentucky, and Dixon's running mate, grand-dog Miss Marple the Great Dane. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

**PANAM CANAL MUSEUM  
SILENT AUCTION  
ANNUAL REUNION**

**JULY 6-10, 2022**

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