

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.



Robert S. Aldrich, age 73, was called home to be with our Lord on July 31, 2022.

Robert passed away peacefully in his home in Tampa, Florida, where he was a resident for almost 60 years. Robert was born November 7, 1948, in the Panama Canal Zone, Panama, to the late Ross and Lillian Aldrich.

At 15 years old, Robert, along with his parents and sister, Jacqueline Aldrich, moved to Tampa, Florida, to begin their new life in the United States of America. Shortly after moving to Tampa, Robert attended Chamberlain High School, where he met and fell in love with his high school sweetheart, Pamela Jean Aldrich.

Robert and Pamela were married on November 14, 1967, and their family began to grow not long after. They had three children, daughter Bobbi Jean and sons Kevin Alick and Christopher Shane. He will be dearly missed by his family, many friends, and relatives who were touched by his presence. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Robert is survived by his wife Pamela, daughter Bobbi (Robert) Frantzen, four grandchildren: Gavin Frantzen, Fiji (Octavien) Moyer, Niah Frantzen; and Keely Frantzen; son Kevin (Jennifer Brinton) Aldrich, two granddaughters: Lillian Aldrich and Francesca Aldrich; son Christopher (Candace Quesada) Aldrich and grandson Oliver Aldrich. Robert was truly loved and cherished by his ever-growing family.

Celeste Lee Bondurant Bell (age 61) accidentally drowned on May 6, 2022 while snorkeling on the barrier reef off the coast of Belize. Lee went to the Canal Zone at age one when her father was hired by the Schools Division as a teacher at Balboa High School. She attended Balboa Elementary School and Curundu Junior High School before graduating from North Carolina State University. She then enrolled in the University of Louisiana at Lafayette to pursue a graduate degree. Lee left Graduate School to volunteer for the Peace Corps. After serving in Barbados, she returned to North Carolina and accepted a position as Marketing Director for Piedmont Retirement Center in North Carolina. She married and moved to Loris, South Carolina where she became the Community Development Director for the Loris Hospital System. When the Loris Hospital was purchased by a larger system, she became the Community Development Director for the Little River Health Care System in Horry County, South Carolina. During all of this time Lee maintained her love for Panama and was considering retiring there. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

In addition to her husband, Mark, Lee is survived by her father, W. Eugene Bondurant of Easley, S.C., her mother Patsy Lee Draughn of High Point, N.C., sisters Anita B. Baker of Myrtle Beach, S.C., and Sheree B. Jones of High Point, N.C.

Gloria Hawken Mendenhall Bredenkamp, 97, died on April 21, 2022, in Anderson, S.C. She was a first and third-grade teacher at Margarita Elementary School from 1969 to 1988.

She began her tenure with the Canal Zone School System after she and her daughters Sue and Linda spent ten days riding out Hurricane Camille at the mouth of the Mississippi River aboard the SS Cristobal. To make the move to the Zone less traumatic, Gloria stressed the opportunities for new adventures. As water sloshed around in their stateroom, the girls said, "well, mom, this certainly is an adventure."

At a holiday party in December 1969, Gloria met Jim Bredenkamp. And in a classic example of "Mutual love at first glance," they were married 128 days later. Gloria said, "with five kids, what's a honeymoon?" Their fifty-second wedding anniversary was April tenth, 2022.

The blending of the two families, Gloria's son Tony, a Wittenberg University student, Sue (CHS'72) and Linda (CHS'74), and Jim's son Jerry (CH'79) and daughter Dee (CHS'81), was another adventure that went really well.

Gloria left the isthmus at the end of 1988 when Jim was assigned to New Jersey. Gloria and Jim have lived in Anderson, S.C., for the last thirty-five years. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Noelle Dawn Brown Calkin passed away on April 10, 2021, with her family around her. She is mourned by her son, Philip Parris Calkin, her daughter, Belle Calkin, and her husband, Robert Calkin, as well as her five siblings, their spouses, nieces, nephews, and friends. Her siblings remember Noelle as a lively, curly-headed scamp who was bubbly and full of fun and enthusiasm. She was the "baby sister" who brightened all of their lives.

Noelle was born December 16, 1963, at Gorgas Hospital, Ancon, Canal Zone, Panama, to Merrill Reynolds Brown and Gloria Ruth McCloskey Brown. She was the only one of her siblings to be born in Panama during the fifteen years her parents were there on behalf of the Inter-American Geodetic Survey, which was the United States organization mapping Central and South America.

Noelle spent a significant amount of her first six years at Amador Beach with her mom and siblings. In 1970, she moved to Arlington, Virginia, to the family home on North Granada Street with her parents and two brothers. She swam for the Arlington Forest Swim team with her brother Dave and participated in statewide competitions with her synchro-

nized swimming team. She was an avid downhill skier, traveler, flutist, and horseback rider. Noelle was the consummate animal lover, and family pets included guinea pigs, rabbits, turtles, cats, dogs, and horses.

Noelle traveled with her parents every summer, visiting many beaches along the Eastern Seaboard, always stopping at Disney World in Florida. She took two trips to Europe with her mother, and they had their annual pre-Christmas shopping/museum trip to New York City. As an adult, she returned to Panama with her children, husband, four siblings and their families to visit the land of her birth.

After graduating from Washington and Lee High School, she attended Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond in 1981. Upon graduation from VCU in 1985 with a degree in Psychology, she remained in Richmond. She married Robert Calkin, her high school sweetheart, in 1987 and eventually moved to Hollywood, California, to be closer to the music scene there.

Her children, Belle Calkin (30) and Philip Parris Calkin (26), were born in California and grew up in the Burbank/Hollywood area.

The love of horses was shared by Noelle and her daughter, Belle, and they spent many weekends over the years showing their horses, where Belle excelled in the ring. While Belle was pursuing her Ph.D. in Psychology, she continued to show her horses. Noelle's son, Parris, followed the family's inherited love of the film industry. After graduating from California State University at Northridge, he became a writer, editor, producer, director, and colorist.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Calkin, daughter Belle Calkin, and son Parris Calkin, her five siblings James Allen Brown (BHS'60), of Durham, N.C., Diane Ruth Brown (BHS'64) Linfors (Eugene) (BHS'63), of Durham, N.C., Kelvin Stevens Brown (BHS'66) (Vickie), of Ft. Worth, Texas, Brian Reynolds Brown (BHS'70) (Deborah), of Raleigh, N.C., Davin Walter Brown (Jennifer), of Raleigh, N.C., and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in passing by her parents and her two uncles.



Sean Marvan Chadwick found eternal peace on July 4, 2022, in Gilbert, South Carolina. He was born on November 21, 1984, to Michelle Hutchings de Vallarino and Donald Guy Chadwick in Panama City, Republic of Panama. He remained in Panama for his first nine years, where he developed his zeal for life, the outdoors, and engaging with everyone he met. While in Panama, he attended Los Ríos Elementary School in the Panama Canal Zone.

He moved with his mother and stepfather to Burke, Virginia, and attended Kings Glen Elementary and Lake Braddock Middle School. The family relocated across the country to Newbury Park, California, where he attended Sequoia Middle School and Newbury Park High School. During these years, he played the violin and saxophone at school, along with his all-time favorite activities, baseball and basketball. Not being tall didn't hold Sean back from being a

valued basketball team member. He made up for what he lacked in height with speed and determination.

Sean began traveling unaccompanied between Panama and the United States at a young age. He traveled home to spend time with his father and family and enjoy the warm weather and outdoor activities. Always the outgoing and charming young man eager to start a conversation with strangers, the flight attendants frequently threatened to take this sweet boy home.

During his summers with his dad, he learned to love the game of golf. He had a natural talent for it and excelled at the sport. It was a great way to connect with family and friends who were avid fellow golfers. While in Panama, he also helped in the family travel agency Chadwick Travel and learned to write airline tickets before hitting his teenage years. He proudly played Little League baseball on the team sponsored by Chadwick Travel. Once again, his agility, determination, and enthusiasm played to his advantage. Upon completion of High School, Sean graduated from Professional Golfers Career College in Temecula, California. As it turns out, Information Technology (IT) was another natural gift he possessed. Before moving to Columbia, South Carolina, he worked for several IT companies in California.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Marvan Guy Chadwick, Alba Davis, and Vally Elsa Vallarino de Hutchings; his uncles, Michael Chadwick, Alba "Buddy" Hutchings, and William "Billy" Hutchings; his great aunt Gladys Lovis; and his second-cousin Alexander Hutchings.

He is survived by his parents, Michelle Isabelle Humphrey and Donald Guy Chadwick; stepparents Lloyd Kelley Humphrey and Evelyn Gonzales Chadwick; his daughter and love of his life Noah; half and step siblings Andrew Chadwick, Adalyn Marantino, Casey Humphrey, Victoria Humphrey, and Paige Humphrey; his grandmother Ida Maria Loo de Chadwick; great aunt Doris Lovis; great uncle Carlos Lovis, great aunt and Godmother Dora Vallarino; and aunts Nancy (Tommy) Welch, Mia (Mike) Griswold, and Terra Chadwick; many cousins and friends; and special friend and companion Frances Menendez. His infectious laugh and beautiful smile will be missed by all who were fortunate to know him.



Mary Patricia Coffey (Née **Morland**) was born May 9, 1939. None of her friends would be surprised that she emerged from the womb smiling broadly and graciously thanking those who took the time to attend her birth. Mary lived her life enjoying the moment and always in anticipation of sharing her smile with the world. She was a gift to us all.

Mary bore a natural humility especially for those less fortunate. She never missed an opportunity to remind us that "there, but for the grace of God, go I." She was a very proud member of Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Balboa and also enjoyed attending services at Sacred Heart in Ancon.

Upon graduation from Cristobal high school in 1957,

Mary moved to New York City to work for *Time* magazine. As children, we would enjoy both her energy and excitement as she regaled us with all the exciting times she had as a young lady in the Big Apple. She returned to the Canal Zone over a year later to marry her high school sweetheart, John Coffey, and start a new life together. John and Mary had planned to “wait a couple years” before children and soon had three boys within 27 months. Hey, it was the 60s.

Mary adored the nurturing of motherhood. For her kids, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, dogs, parrots, et al. No one escaped her trinity of smile, kindness and greeting. We are all one big family to Mary. Her love for children and dogs would last to her dying day. The outpouring of love, affection, and memories of Mary, however obscure, have been so humbling and gratifying for her family. Her life has been testimony that the love you give returns to you tenfold.

Mary loved to work for her own financial independence and the opportunity it gave her to pursue her favorite sport – shopping. And boy was she a star! Her arrival in the Colon Free Zone was greeted with the chants of “MVP! MVP! MVP!” Mary carried herself with great dignity, charisma, and her own style of doing things. She knew how to drive a hard bargain to get the best quality, ONLY the best quality. Visiting officers wives, friends, family, casual acquaintances alike would marvel at Mary’s driving style, parallel parking skills, days long shopping excursions, bargaining skills, and ability to communicate with so many different personalities. It was truly a gift. Whether it be a Joyeria on Calle Cincuenta, Mercado in Casco Viejo, a bazaar in El Valle, or tablecloths on Front Street she wanted the best deal and invariably got it.

Mary’s entire career was working in various groups for the US military. From early beginnings in Fort Sherman on the Atlantic side to secretary to the CINC of USSOUTHCOM. She genuinely loved her generals, her entire office staff, and their respective families. She treated them like family. She was a natural relationship builder before it was even “a thing”. She has always been someone who got things done. So many people of distinction passed through the door of our home for cocktails, or dinner, or just a visit. Our parents were both very good at hosting so many eclectic friendships from all walks of life. They found people genuinely interesting and passed that appreciation on to their children.

Imagine checking this off your lifetime bucket list, “Hosted clandestine meeting with CIA to overthrow tyrannical dictator.” An intriguing moment in Mary’s career, and a testament to her networking prowess, was when Mary was contacted by Adella Bonilla de Giroldi to obtain US military assistance for her husband’s attempted coup against Manuel Noriega. The extent of American support was hashed out with Adella Giroldi and the CIA in Mary’s living room. Sadly, the coup failed but this set an important precedent for the ensuing Operation Just Cause that ousted Noriega.

In closing, it’s difficult to encapsulate a lifetime of love, generosity, legacy, and such a positive force for good in a few paragraphs. Mary is that rare personality that’s impossible to describe yet could fill volumes of memories for those who had the fortune to know her. They seem to be able to recall in vivid memory their interactions with her and the impression she left upon them. For this reason, we won’t list all who she is loved by but rather acknowledge anonymously the many

lives she touched out of the goodness of her heart, however brief. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Douglas Hilliard Crook, 79, of Bradenton, passed away on Thursday, July 21, 2022. Doug was born and raised in Balboa, Canal Zone in Panamá to Wilson Hord Crook and Phyllis Hersh Crook. He graduated with the Balboa High School class of 1960.

Doug served in the U.S. Navy from 1960-1966 BT3rd (two yrs. Active Service, two yrs. Ready Reserves and two yrs. Reserves), attended St. Petersburg Jr. College for his A.A. and continued to University of South Florida to earn his B.A. in Business. He was an engineer by trade and worked and retired from Tropicana Products as their “Master Squeezer” and helped to revolutionize orange fruit processing. Doug was very devoted to his family and consistently went above and beyond the call of duty with respects to caring for and supporting his family. Doug was well-loved by many and known for his kindness and humor. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 37 years, Roselynn Guthrie, brother, Michael Hersh Crook and his parents. He is survived by his son, Michael D., daughter, Johanna Crook Beville, son-in-law, William D. Beville and twin sister, Phyllis Fiore.



Robert (Bob) Frederick Dahlstrom peacefully passed away on May 14, 2022, at home in Rockville, Maryland. He was born in April 1935 to the late Samuel and Alida (Logerquist) Dahlstrom of Sister Bay,

Wisconsin. Bob was the youngest of five siblings Kenneth, Lawrence, Donald, and Eleanor Larson. Bob graduated from Gibraltar High School in Fish Creek, Wisconsin, in 1953.

Bob served in the United States Army from 1957 to 1959 and was stationed at Fort Amador, Canal Zone, Panama. He was honorably discharged from the US Army Reserve in 1963. He graduated from Door-Kewaunee County Teachers College, Algoma, Wisconsin (1957) and earned a Bachelor's degree (1961) from the University of Wisconsin (UW), Oshkosh, and Master's (1967) and Specialist (1974) degrees from UW-Superior.

Before teaching in the American Panama Canal School System, Bob taught 5th and 6th grade in Menasha and Oshkosh, Wisconsin. In the Canal Zone, Bob taught at Diablo and Los Rios Elementary Schools. He was the Data Processing Coordinator for Canal Zone Schools, taught Data Processing at Canal Zone College, was Supervisor of Elementary Instruction, Principal at Balboa Elementary

School and Curundu Junior High School, and was promoted to Assistant Superintendent and Assistant to the Director of Education, Department of Defense Schools, Panama Region. After retiring from Canal Zone Schools in 1987, he became Principal and Superintendent of his Alma Mater, Gibraltar School District in Fish Creek, Wisconsin. Bob and his wife Martha retired from the Gibraltar School District in 1997 and spent their retirement in Rockville, Maryland, and their summers in Sister Bay, Wisconsin, on the farm where Bob grew up. Bob enjoyed living in the farmhouse his grandparents built in 1889 and driving the same tractor he drove in high school.

Bob was a devoted father, stepfather, and frequent coach of his sons' many athletic teams. He was a man who could fix anything. He enjoyed carpentry and, in retirement, always had projects for his church or family. He was a wonderful grandfather and uncle. Bob was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Bob was the family gatherer, hosting several gatherings and reunions in Sister Bay of Dahlstroms, Dahlstrom-Johnsons, and Logerquists, and proudly MC'd these events. He loved his many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews in the Dahlstrom, Dahlstrom-Larson, Dahlstrom-Johnson, Logerquist, and Ely-Lane families.

He enjoyed vacationing in Florida, Door County, Wisconsin, sailing on several cruises, and spending time with his children, family, and friends, especially Recess (his boat). He loved the Green Bay Packers and was a proud cheesehead/lifelong fan and shareholder. He loved following the Washington Nationals baseball team and attending games at Nationals Park.

He made many lifelong friends from his home in Door County, Wisconsin, the Army, his many years in Panama, and childhood friends of his wife, Martha. Bob loved sharing his wonderful voice and passion for singing in several church choirs and quartets. He always had an open mind, heart, and hands. Quick with a joke, slow to anger, exceedingly patient. He will be sorely missed.

He was preceded in death by his wife Martha (Ely) Lane Dahlstrom, Eric Lane, and Scott Federhen. He loved and is loved by those that precede him and his entire family: Sheree Lane and Michael Martz; Richard and Katy Dahlstrom; David and Stacey Dahlstrom; Carlos and JoAnn Lane; Steve and Luzmila Dahlstrom. Grandchildren Andreine (Dahlstrom) and Chris Cruz; Erica Federhen and Ace Echavarren; Luke Federhen; Austin Dahlstrom; Daniella Lane; Lauren and Emily Dahlstrom, great-grandson Abraham Cruz, extended family and family friends, mother and father Linda (Pearl) Dahlstrom Carter and Howard Lane.



Elizabeth Lillian Lundy Davis (Libby) passed away on April 25, 2022. Libby was born on October 30, 1926, in Gulfport, Mississippi, the second daughter of three children born to William E. Lundy and Opal Fowler Lundy. In 1929 the family moved to the Panama Canal Zone, where she spent her childhood sur-

rounded by the exotic flora and fauna of the tropical rainforest.

Her artistic talents manifested themselves early in life, and in the ensuing years, she created illustrations for articles in the magazine "Natural History," as well as many others. During her senior year in high school, she was asked to paint a frieze of "Christ Feeding the Multitudes," adorning the Balboa Union Church. Libby graduated from Balboa High School in 1944.

In 1944 she left Panama to study fine arts at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. In 1947 she met and married Lester Kearns Bernard, a veteran who served as a "SeaBee" in both the European and Pacific theaters during WWII. They began married life in Columbia and Ecuador, where Mr. Bernard was employed as an engineer with the U.S. Inter-American Geodetic Survey. Life was difficult for the young wife. Her husband was away much of the time, and ensuring the health and safety of herself and her infant child was a constant concern. There were many narrow escapes from danger.

Three children were born to Libby and "LK": Bettie, Lester, and Billie. The young family had moved to La Sara, Texas, in the Rio Grande Valley, where Mr. Bernard owned a tractor dealership and grew citrus. Divorced in 1957, she returned to Panama with three small children. Libby supported her family and provided every opportunity to expand their various talents and interests. Among her positions were with the Federal Aviation Agency and Strategic Command, where she had a top-secret clearance.

In 1963 she met Luther Edward Davis, and they were married in 1966. Tragedy struck in 1968, only two short years later, when Luther died suddenly of a heart attack.

Libby Lundy Davis has traveled and lived in the Republic of Panama, San Blas Islands, Columbia, Ecuador, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, El Salvador, Canada, Haiti, Cuba, England, Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Denmark, Norway, and the U.S.A. She was a unique individual, and she will be greatly missed. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

She is survived by her three children, Bettie B. Bernard Anderson, Lester L. Bernard, and Billie L. Bernard; three grandchildren, Jessica M. Bernard, Kelly L. Tallerine, and L. Lundy Bernard; and three great-grandchildren, Autumn Francis Tallerine, Hazel Kathleen Tallerine, and Glenn Michael Tallerine.



Commander **Jim Engelhardt** passed away on June 2, 2022. He was a wonderful caring husband to his wife, Estrella. Jim was stationed on Fort Amador as a Naval Commander. Upon retirement, he lived in Sarasota, Florida. He will be missed. Jim was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

He is survived by his wife Estrella, his five children, James, Julie, Jon, Jeff, and Lisa, two stepchildren, Naomi and Marc, and many grandchildren.



Joel Crowley Esslinger of Tallgrass Estates, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, passed away on January 23, 2022, at The Journey Home hospice as a result of congestive heart failure. He was 82.

Joel was born December 21, 1939, in the former Panama Canal Zone to William Houston Esslinger and Eileen Crowley Esslinger. A former resident of the towns of Pedro Miguel, Balboa, and Balboa Heights, he attended Canal Zone schools and was a graduate of Balboa High School (1958) and Canal Zone Junior College. Joel moved to Oklahoma to continue his education, studying at Oklahoma State University and graduating from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah. Following



graduation, he moved to Bartlesville to take a position with Phillips Petroleum. He retired from Phillips in 1992. Joel was a diehard New York Yankees fan and enjoyed following college and professional sports teams. He was an avid reader, a coin and stamp collector, a history buff, a music lover, and a bowling league member.

Joel was an active member of St. John Before the Latin Gate Roman Catholic Church in Bartlesville. He served as a sacristan, collection counter, lector, eucharistic minister, and frequent volunteer. He also volunteered for many years in the diagnostic imaging department of Ascension St. John Jane Phillips Hospital, assisted the hospital chaplain, and was honored for his hospital volunteer work. He was an active member of the Knights of Columbus Council No. 1302 and was a 4th-degree Knight. He had also served as a board director of the Phillips Men's Club and was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Joel was preceded in death by his parents, his older brother and sister-in-law, Andrew D., and Phyllis Z. Esslinger of Sturbridge, Mass. He is survived by his sister, Mary Esslinger of Washington, D.C., and two nieces, Ellen Esslinger Cooley of Watertown, Mass., and Amy Litman of Malden, Mass., and several cousins.



Robert Edward ("Bob") French, age 97, of Newport Beach, passed away on March 13, 2022, in Mission Viejo, California. He was born December 28, 1924, to Merwin Andrew French and Marion Frances (Nolan) French in Birmingham, Alabama. He had one older brother, Merwin ("Mer"), and an older sister, Marjorie Ann, who predeceased him.

Bob grew up during the Great Depression living in Cristobal, Panama, and playing golf at Gatun Golf Course immediately adjacent to the Gatun Locks and Gatun Dam, often with his brother Mer and their life-long friend Dick Tawes. Bob's father, Merwin, had traveled to the



U.S. Canal Zone in search of work with the Canal Zone government. Merwin went from a clerk in the Accounting Department to putting ships through the Canal as Dispatcher, then as Supervisory Marine Traffic Controller, while his son, Bob, continued to hone his golf skills. While playing the Gatun Golf Course, military soldiers started laying out barbed wire around the Gatun Locks the day the golf course closed, December 7, 1941.

Bob graduated from Cristobal High School in 1942 and enrolled at the University of Texas, but World War II intervened. In May 1943, Bob joined the U.S. Navy and attended boot camp in San Diego. After attending Naval Training School (Radar Operators) in Point Loma, Bob was assigned to the brand-new *USS Wintle* (DE-25) as a Radarman and Sonarman for his 33-month tour of duty in the South Pacific during WWII. The *USS Wintle* primarily served as a hunter-killer radar picket destroyer escort performing air/surface radar and antisubmarine patrol in the South Pacific. The *USS Wintle* supported the invasion of the Marshall Islands and saw action at Peleliu, Guam, Saipan, and searched the Eniwetok-Marianas shipping lanes for Japanese submarines. When the Japanese surrendered in August 1945, Bob was in San Francisco celebrating the end of 22 months of duty in the South Pacific and V-J Day, where a raucous celebration began and did not end for three days. In March 1946, Bob was discharged from the U.S. Navy and returned to Cristobal, Panama, and the Gatun Golf Club.

After the war, Bob attended Canal Zone Junior College and was awarded a scholarship to the University of Chicago. Instead of taking the scholarship, Bob followed his older brother Mer to Syracuse University, graduating in 1949.

After college, Bob returned to the Canal Zone, working odd jobs such as patrolling a tank farm at Fort Gulick and acting as a housing manager at the Coco Solo Submarine Base.

While visiting his friend Dick Tawes, Bob and Dick got a job delivering a car from Tallahassee, Florida, to Santa Monica, California. Since Dick's father lived in Long Beach, the two young WWII veterans decided to make the trip to California. Upon arriving in Southern California, Bob needed to find a job, so he walked into the Occidental Life Insurance office in Los Angeles and asked the Group Insurance Manager for a job. Occidental Life took a chance on the young tall (6'4") veteran and gave him an entry-level job selling group insurance.

Through mutual friends of Dick Tawes, at a dance in Long Beach in 1953, Bob met his future bride, Mildred Edwina ("Millie") Falgren. Bob was offered a supervisory opportunity for Occidental Life in Philadelphia three months after they met. Not wanting to deal with a cross-country romance, Bob and Millie drove to Las Vegas with only a few friends in tow and got married. The next day they drove to Philadelphia.

Millie got a job as a secretary for the Annenberg-owned Philadelphia Inquirer and then as a model in New York City for the Ford Modeling Agency. Settling first in Collingswood, New Jersey, just outside Philadelphia, and then in Levittown, Pennsylvania. Bob commuted to Philadelphia, and Millie

commuted to NYC, often bringing her young son, Michael, born in 1954, in tow. A second son, John, was born in 1958. Both Bob and Millie yearned to return to Southern California and jumped at the chance when Bob had the opportunity to transfer back to Los Angeles in 1959.

Bob, Millie, and the two boys landed in the Los Angeles suburb of La Mirada, but only just after a year moved to a section of Los Angeles just Northwest of DTLA now known as Koreatown. A daughter, Patricia, was born in Los Angeles in 1961, and in 1964, the growing family moved to the Hollywood Hills, just North of Franklin Avenue. A second daughter, Kathleen, was born in 1967. Living in Hollywood Hills was not the best location to raise a young family, so in 1967, the family of six moved to Huntington Beach. Bob was still a golfer, and Bob and Millie both took up tennis big time, playing first at The Pacific Sands Cabana Club, then Seacliff Tennis Club, and the Balboa Bay Club Racquet Club in Newport Beach. Bob and Millie separated in 1984 and divorced in 1988. Bob focused on growing his insurance brokerage company, Robert E. French Insurance Services, Inc.

In 1988, in a scene from Joseph Wambaugh's novel, *The Golden Orange*, Bob met Ann Johnston in the bar at the Balboa Bay Club. After a whirlwind romance, Bob and Ann were married and settled in Dover Shores, living on a bluff overlooking the Upper Newport Bay. Bob and Ann hit the Newport Beach social circuit for several years. Bob continued playing tennis at the Racquet Club and Newport Beach Country Club golf. Ann played cards regularly at the Country Club. In 2007, Bob and Ann sold their Dover Shores home and moved to Granville along the 9th fairway of Newport Beach Country Club. In 2015, Bob and Ann got divorced, and Bob continued to live in Granville until the end of 2020. Bob continued to maintain his insurance license and ran his insurance business until the very end.

Bob is survived by sons Michael (Michelle) and John (Nancy); daughters Patricia French and Kathleen Hoerchner; and grandsons Sam and Max French. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Richard K. Gayer, age 63, went to be with the Lord on March 19, 2022. He was born and raised in the country of Panama to Richard Joseph and Marilyn Gayer (preceding him in death). Richard graduated from Balboa High School in 1976. He moved to the US to attend college and went to the University of Connecticut.

Staying in the New England area for over 25 years, he finally made his home in Apollo Beach, Florida. Richard was a member of Teddy Roosevelt Rough Riders in Tampa and the Panama Canal Society.

He is survived by his wife, Diana Gayer, and his stepchildren, Kristen Gillian and Stephen Askey (Alicia). He was the proud grandfather of two girls, Lydia Askey and Addison Gillian. He is also survived by his siblings, Cheri Burke (Bobby), Valerie Gayer, and Steven Gayer, as well as nieces, Shaw McGuinness and Sheena McGuinness, and nephews, Michael Greenlee, Kevin Clark, and Dalton Williams.



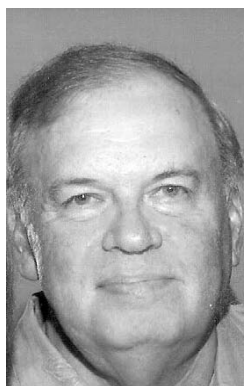
George Richard Gohde, Jr., a resident of Midland City and Dothan, Alabama, passed away on Mon., May 9, 2022. He was 75 years old.

Rick was born on October 16, 1946, in Englewood, N. J., and lived there for the early part of his life. After earning his master's degree in civil engineering and attending military college, he proudly served in the Army. He worked as an engineer and ultimately was stationed in the Country of Panama, where he met his wife and the mother of his two children. After being honorably discharged from the Army, Rick worked for the government of the Panama Canal Zone as one of the chief engineers for the Panama Canal.

After his Panama Canal Commission retirement, Rick and his family moved to Dothan in 1993. In 1996, his wife succumbed to her battle with cancer. Rick continued to work several different engineering jobs. He worked at a local engineering firm and was the County Engineer in two other counties in Alabama. Rick remarried and later divorced Debra Ann Thomas. In his free time, he enjoyed working outside, building various structures for himself and others, bringing to fruition the home he designed to build himself at his property in Tennessee.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Deborah Lee Duncan Gohde; parents, Dorothy and George Richard Gohde, Sr.; and sister, Galen Gohde.

Survivors include his son, Richard "Ryon" Gohde; daughter, Chantelle Alene Gohde; his four grandchildren, George "Bennett" Gohde, Aden Celeste Gohde, Devin Leigh Driver, and Jordyn Nicole York; and son-in-law, William York, Jr.



John Franklin Hern (Jack), 80, of Valrico, Florida, passed away on July 24, 2022, after a long battle with Alzheimer's Lewy Body Dementia. Jack was born on December 22, 1941, in Ancon, Canal Zone, the Republic of Panama, to John F. Hern Sr. and Margaret Moore Hern. He grew up in the Canal Zone, where he graduated from Balboa High School in 1959 and earned an AA Degree from the Panama Canal Junior College a few years later. Jack pursued his education, graduating from Florida State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, and he then obtained a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Nova University. Jack's first job in the Canal Zone was working as a Canal Zone Police Officer. Although of short duration, he was very proud



of the time he spent serving the community as a guardian of the law. When an Accountant position came open, Jack transferred to the Accounting Division of the Panama Canal

Company. During his career, Jack rose to the position of Chief Accountant of the Panama Canal Commission, formally the Panama Canal Company. He retired in 1996 during the transfer of the Canal to the Republic of Panama.

In 1959 he also met his "girl and best friend," Frances Yost. They wed on August 24, 1963, and have two children, John F. Hern III and Yvette "Mitchie" (Hern) Overstreet. Jack was very active with his community in the Canal Zone, serving as a lifetime member of the Elks Lodge #1414. He volunteered and coached Junior League football and Junior League baseball. Many of his former players still call him "Coach." He was well-liked and respected by both the players and parents alike. Jack enjoyed skin diving, deep water fishing, and sports and was an avid golfer. He spent many hours on a golf course trying to win a few dollars from his buddies.

After retiring in 1996, Jack and Fran moved to Zephyrhills, Florida, where he worked for the James A Haley Veterans Research and Education Foundation. Jack and Fran loved traveling, attending sporting events, and playing golf. For many years, they were season ticket holders for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Jack was a member of the Panama Canal Society and loved to attend the annual Society Reunion, where he was able to see friends of old and recall the days long past.

Jack was predeceased by his parents John F. Hern Sr. and Margaret Moore Hern. He is survived by his wife Fran Yost Hern; brother Richard "Dickie" Hern and his wife Ruth (Chance) Hern; son John F. Hern III and partner Ellen Solmson; daughter Mitchie (Hern) Overstreet and husband John Overstreet; grandchildren Adam and Shay Hern, Darien and Kandis Hern, Bailey Hern, John Philip Hern, Kaylee Overstreet, Dylan Overstreet and Sydney Kahle; great-grandchildren Macklen Hern, Remington Hern, and Chapman Hern.



Bruce Carleton Hill, 76, of St Mary, Georgia, passed away at his residence on July 12, 2022.

Bruce was born January 27, 1946, in San Francisco, California, to Mortimer Chester Hill and Jean Carleton Hill. He spent his younger years in the Canal Zone in Panama, Central America, where his dad was a Panama Canal Pilot.

After graduating from High School in San Diego, Calif, he joined the Navy. Bruce's Military career spanned 20 years, retiring in May 1984 as a Navy Chief. He served on the USS Forrestal in 1967 and later on the USS John F. Kennedy. His favorite posts were RAF St Mawgan in Cornwall, England, and Holy Loch in Scotland as Assistant Coordinator. After retirement from the Navy, he worked at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, until 1990. Bruce transferred to Trident Refit Facility, Kings Bay, Ga., as Civil Service Crane Operator until 2006.

Bruce was a proud member of St Aspinquid Masonic Lodge # 198 of York, Maine, Past Master of Camden Lodge #476 Kingsland, Georgia, and Secretary for 15 years. He was an avid golfer, which he enjoyed very much. Bruce never knew a stranger and was a good friend to all.

He is survived by his wife Evelyn Ross Hill for 38 years, formerly of Scotland; a son Chris B. Hill (Polly) of Calif.; a brother Mark Hill (Pat) of Maine; a sister-in-law Sally Dewar (Freddie) of Mass., and Alison Thomson (Scotland); several nieces and nephews from Scotland, Australia, New York, as well as cousins in Washington State.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his first wife, Susan Hill, in-laws David and Nancy Ross, and a brother-in-law David Thomson.



James H. Hicks, age 75, of Erwin, passed away on August 15, 2022, at his home. A native of Ancon, Canal Zone, in the Republic de Panama, James is a son of the late James Kenneth and Haleyda De La Lastra Hicks. He served as Chief of Police for the Erwin Police Department. James graduated from Balboa High School in 1964. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

In addition to his parents, James is preceded in death by his wife of 44 years, Elizabeth Ann (Howell) Hicks.

James H. Hicks leaves behind to cherish his memory: daughter, Elizabeth "Beth" Haleyda Cloyd and wife, Brittany; granddaughter, Elizabeth Paige Rosenbaum; and special friends, Dee "Big Daddy" Gaddy and family.



Elizabeth Jane Cox Hilliard, 86, passed away on June 21, 2022. Jane was born on December 17, 1935, in Raeford, N.C., to Daniel Curtis Cox and Elizabeth Jane Sessoms Cox. She had three siblings, Ruth, Edna, and Dan Jr. Ruth died at 103 this past year in Thousand Oaks, California. Edna (95 yrs. old) lives in Rancho Mirage,

California. Dan Jr. passed away in Florida a number of years ago. Her mother, Elizabeth Jane Cox, passed away from Alzheimer's Dementia at age 89. Jane, the youngest of the children, moved to California and lived with her sister Ruth. She attended Van Nuys Jr. High and Van Nuys High School.

Jane married Wendell Boyd Myler at the age of seventeen, and together they had three children: William Scott Myler (Sharon), Deidrea Poulson (Keith), and Robin Romney (Bill). She and Boyd joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and raised their children in the church, two of whom served missions.

Jane married a second time in 1977 and a third time in 1988. Finally, on July 9, 1994, she married David Armstrong Hilliard in the Los Angeles Temple for Time Only and was

later sealed to him in the San Diego Temple on July 11, 1998. When they were sealed, they were also sealed to their parents. They lived in Temecula, California, for twenty-two years and worked together as Ordinance Workers in the San Diego Temple for twenty years. Jane had many church callings in the Relief Society, Young Single Adults, and twice as a Pathway Missionary. She was a friend to all. Jane loved to dance and had been an active square dancer over the years. She was an excellent cook and loved to entertain.

She and her husband, Dave, would have celebrated their twenty-seventh wedding anniversary on July 9. Both she and Dave have been Travel Agents for twenty-five years and have traveled the world. They were best friends and devoted to each other.

Between Jane and Dave, they have eight children, 24 grandchildren, and 39 great-grandchildren, soon to be 40. Two of her granddaughters, Whitney Steele and Kendell Evans, have given their daughters (Everly Jane Steele) and (Brielle Elizabeth Evans) Jane's middle and first names, respectively. Her granddaughters show tremendous love and respect for her.

Jane developed Alzheimer's Dementia six years ago. She had been living at home with Dave in Washington, Utah, until recently when she was placed at the Memory Care Facility (Ovation at Sienna Hills) for her comfort and safety. Dave has been her caregiver, devoted and committed to providing for all her needs for all those years. At Ovation, she received the most loving care from the staff and residents. They showed their love to Jane in many ways and became her best friends.

She is survived by her husband, David, three biological children, five stepchildren, and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Jane will be laid to rest in the Arlington National Cemetery. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Johnathon Daniel Humphries, age 31, of Loganville, Georgia, passed away on April 29, 2022. Johnathon is the stepson of Davis R. Stevenson and nephew to Lori (Stevenson) and Virgil Snow.

He was preceded in death by his "Nana" Betty Johnston Daniel. He is survived by his wife Angie Humphries; stepdaughter Desirae Harrison; father John Humphries and stepmother Letha Humphries of Alabama; mother Linda, and stepfather Davis Stevenson of Snellville; and many other loved ones.

Johnathon loved Nascar, wrestling, hanging out with close friends, and cooking. He had recently begun gardening and was proving to be good at it. Several different herbs and a couple of types of lettuce had already started to spring up. He was even becoming successful at making homemade wine. His loss was unexpected and left his family in shock. A gathering of family and friends was held for Johnathon on Thursday, May 5, 2022.



Vincent Paul Martinez passed away on August 6, 2022.

Vincent was born on June 1, 1934, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Cruz and Pascuala (Priscilla) Martinez, the fifth child after Maria Pryor, Gabriel Martinez, Rita Guajardo, and Cruz Martinez, and before John Martinez and Monica Sandoval.

Despite having contracted polio at the age of two, Vincent was an avid athlete, taking his high school baseball team to state as a pitcher. Vincent always said baseball was his religion. The only thing that surpassed his passion for sports was his family.

He was married to Carmen Delia (Sanchez) Martinez for 24 years before her death and then to Paula (Quintero) Martinez for 32 years before her death earlier this year.

Vincent was an educator in Oklahoma City and the Panama Canal Zone, beloved geography and history teacher, and championship football, baseball, and softball coach.

Vincent is survived by his children Regina (Edmund) Bringas, Felicia (Todd) Mendenhall, Tamara (Greg) Gramlich, Cristina (Kevin) Byvik, Dioscorides (Ivana) Ballesteros, Raul Martinez, Luz Ballesteros, and Natalie (Kenny) Rush; grandchildren Sarah (Trevor) Bringas, Galen (Daneen) Bringas, Jason Gramlich, Samantha Mendenhall, Simon Mendenhall, Owen Byvik, Carmen Rush, Maria Rush, and Danna Ballesteros; and great-grandchildren Dartagnan Bringas, Valyrian Bringas, and Tristan Miller.



Colonel **Frank Jefferson McLeod, Jr.**, age 79, of Smyrna, Georgia, passed away on Sunday, April 24, 2022, following years of declining health. Frank was born in Ancon, Panama Canal Zone, on September 24, 1942. He was the son of the late Frank Jefferson McLeod and Alda Lorraine Madden McLeod.

Colonel McLeod grew up in the former Panama Canal Zone, where he loved to hunt and fish and especially enjoyed going through the Panama Canal in the annual Cayuco Race. He participated in Boy Scouts and attended the 1957 Boy Scout Jamboree in Valley Forge, Pa. He was also an Eagle Scout. He enjoyed music and assisted with the Margarita Union Church Choir. Frank was Valedictorian of the 1960 Class of Cristobal High School, where he was a member of the ROTC. He attended the University of Virginia. He was President of the Glee Club and a member of the Air Force ROTC.

He graduated with a degree in Astronomy. Upon graduation, he was commissioned in the Air Force and, after flight School, began his career as an Air Force Pilot. Colonel McLeod served in Vietnam as a fighter pilot and flew an F-4 Phantom II in 100 missions over North Vietnam under the command of Colonel Robin Olds. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. After the Vietnam War, Frank

served as a flight instructor and later joined the Georgia Air National Guard. He also earned his MS in Physics from Georgia State University. He was attached to the Pentagon for ten years and then returned to Georgia, where he served until his retirement.

He loved to sing and enjoyed participating in a Barber Shop Quartet. Colonel McLeod was a member of the American Legion Post 160 of Smyrna, Ga., where he had many friends and had served as a Financial Officer. He was also a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Colonel McLeod was preceded in death by a brother, William Sumner McLeod of Poulan, Ga.; a sister, Mary Rebecca “Becky” McLeod Herrington and husband, Harold Wallace Herrington of Calhoun, Ga.

He is survived by a brother, Keith Madden McLeod (Susan) of Roebuck, S.C.; a niece, Kelly Elizabeth McLeod of Moore, S.C. and a nephew, Keith Madden McLeod, Jr. of Fletcher, N.C. Frank is also survived by longtime friends Richard Manus of Sebring, Fla.; Barbara McGee of Smyrna, Ga.; Kris Barlow of Greensboro, Ga.; Donna Beckley of Smyrna, Ga., and many dear friends from the Panama Canal Zone and American Legion Post 160, Smyrna, Georgia.

Colonel McLeod loved and served America well. A service with full honors will be held at Arlington National Cemetery on a date yet to be determined.



Col. John J. ‘Jack’ Plunkett (Ret) (PE) died on his 91st birthday, July 16, 2022, at his home in Niceville, Florida. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. He was born on July 16, 1931, in Harrison, New York, the son of Frank and Ellen Hackman Plunkett.

In his youth, he worked a magazine delivery route, a newspaper route, raised pigeons, caddied often, and set pins in a bowling alley. He graduated Harrison High School at age 16 because of the depression when his father lost his home. He was an Eagle Boy Scout with three Palms and was awarded the Order of the Arrow. He graduated from Clarkson College with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering at the age of 20. He was commissioned as a Reserve 2nd Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers on June 1, 1952.

He was a member of the fraternity Lambda Iota, [later Delta Upsilon]. Upon graduation, he had a goal of writing a simple math book for engineers, but that never worked.

He reported to active duty at Fort Belvoir, Va., on July 7, 1952. He exercised his DMG [Distinguish Military Graduate] for Regular Army, which was back-dated to his 21st birthday. He served in France and then as a Platoon Leader in Germany with the 5th and 1st Infantry Divisions.

In October 1953, at Charny France, he married Cynthia “Tinny” A. Ellis, daughter of Elmon Ellis and Imogene Burtis. He met Tinny in December of 1950, 71 years ago, as a Potsdam State Teachers College student.

Later he served in Kansas, Colorado, and Washington, D.C. area. He graduated after two years with a Master’s Degree in soil engineering with a minor in nuclear engineering from Iowa State College at Ames. He attended the Engineer Advanced Course, the Command and General College, and the Army War College.

Next, he was assigned to Air Force Intelligence doing targeting work. He was a Company Commander in Korea with the 76th Engineers. He returned to Washington and was assigned to the Army Nuclear Power Program. He was later the Assistant Exec to the Chief of Engineers and then as Assistant Exec to the Director of Civil Works. Then he was Assigned as a Battalion Commander of the 93rd Engineer Construction Battalion in Vietnam, followed by the Engineering School at Fort Belvoir, Va. Later he was assigned to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon.

Then, as an Army Corps of Engineer Colonel, he was assigned to the Panama Canal as Director of Engineering and Construction Bureau and was there for 18 years and was the last American Chief Engineer of the Panama Canal. He retired in November 1980 from the Army after 30 years of service and took a Federal Civil Service position in the same job at the same desk for the next 12 years.

In January 1993, after 41 years in the workforce, Jack retired again and moved to Niceville, Fla., where he enjoyed specializing in dog herding and agility and researching genealogy.

He attributes his accomplishments to the Depression, WWII, his High School teachers and peers and Fraternity peers, especially his WWII peers, and his devoted wife and



Norman H Pedersen Jr., 81, passed away March 11, 2022, in Panama, R. de P., due to leukemia.

He was born in October 1940 at the Santo Tomas Hospital in Panama. His mother was Esther J. Johnson from Panama, and his father was Norman H. Pedersen from New York. He grew up in Cocoli, enjoying the warmth and daily activities few young kids have these days. He was a CZ all-star baseball team member that played in Hershey, Pa. Norm graduated from Balboa High School in 1958. In his class picture, we see Norm with his trademark glasses, nicknamed “Owlie” and flattop. The caption captures Norm’s personality, “A real pal with a grin that never seems to fade.”

Following his graduation from High School, Norm achieved in September of 1963 the title of apprentice sheet metal worker. This served as a stepping stone for him to achieve his climb in the Panama Canal Zone organization. His calm, direct, honest problem-solving skills in conflict earned him the respect of everyone he met. He is a member of the Panama Canal Society.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Sue Rhoads Pedersen, and their son, David. He is survived by his wife, Marixena Pedersen, and sons, Michael and Paul.

family.

He is survived by his wonderful wife Tinny of 68 years; daughters Cynthia Clarbour, Jacqueline Ospina, and Imogene Pierce; three wonderful sons-in-law; seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter; his dog "Johnnie" and nine birds. He was preceded in death by two sons, Cary and John, his brother Frank, a nephew, and his parents.



Retired Chief Master Sergeant **John E. Schmidt, Jr.**, 90, of Tallahassee, Florida, died at Westminster Oaks on May 8, 2022.

Born on September 11, 1931, in Baltimore, Maryland, he moved to the Panama Canal Zone (Canal Zone) in 1935 when his father went to work for the Panama Canal Company. After graduating from Balboa High School in 1950, he initially joined the US Naval Reserve and subsequently enlisted in the US Air Force in 1951.

During his thirty years of active duty, he served in the Canal Zone twice with duty at Albrook AFB as the Ground Training NCO and then as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of Technical Training with the Inter-American Air Forces Academy, Albrook AFB, Canal Zone. He also served at Mather AFB, California; Moody AFB, Georgia; Andrews AFB, Maryland; United States Air Force Academy, Colorado; US Military Assistance Command, Saigon, Vietnam; and his final assignment at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, as the Base Sergeant Major for the 4756th Air Base Group. He retired from active service on May 1, 1981, at Tyndall AFB.

After retirement, John was instrumental in the start-up of the Air Force Junior ROTC program for Leon County Schools, with a unit being established at Amos P. Godby High School in August 1981, where he was the Assistant Aerospace Science Instructor. John worked tirelessly to help establish subsequent JRROTC programs at three other high schools before he retired from teaching in 1996. The Godby High School JRROTC building is proudly named after Chief Master Sergeant John E. Schmidt, Jr.

John became a member of the Air Force Association in 1954 and maintained a very active role in the leadership of the local "Colonel H. M. "Bud" West Chapter of the Air Force Association (AFA). As a life member of the AFA, John served at the national, state, and local levels of leadership and as the local chapter president for many years.

In 1985, John began a tireless search for his ancestors, and after six trips to Germany, he established nearly 13,000 individual names with direct connections to his family.

Having been raised in the Panama Canal Zone, John was an avid fan of the historical and operational capabilities of the canal as well as a vocal advocate of the original American engineering, ingenuity, and management skills that built and managed the Panama Canal for over 85 years. He has been a frequent speaker at local organizations and, in recent times, was called upon to report on the current expansion of the Panama Canal. He was honored to be called a "Canal Zone Brat."

In 2010, John moved to Westminster Oaks in Tallahassee, Florida, where he became actively involved in many community programs, diligently led efforts to recognize his fellow veterans, and helped establish and maintain the "Wall of Honor."

Among many things, John will be remembered for his dedicated service to the United States Air Force and his patriotic motivation to inform the public of the proper use and display of the National Colors. He was most often referred to as the "Flag Man" of Tallahassee and the person to call to get the correct answers to United States Flag Code questions. Over the years, John has taught local children classes on the history and protocol of the flag.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon, NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon, Small Arms Marksmanship Ribbon, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and the Vietnamese Campaign Medal. John was also selected as the Outstanding Senior NCO of the Year for the United States Air Force Academy in 1970.

John also loved being a part of the "community." He was a member of many organizations, including the following: AFA; Air Force Sergeants Association; Panama Canal Society Inc; Panama Canal Museum; Leon County Sheriff's Office Citizen's Academy Alumni Association; Florida Sheriff's Association; United States Air Force Military Training Instructors Association; 33rd Infantry Regimental Combat Team Association; USAF Crash Rescue Boat Association; National Association for Uniformed Services; Baltimore County, MD, Historical Society; Florida Education Association; National Education Association; Armed Forces Top Enlisted Association; American Legion; National Association for Uniformed Services; National Rifle Association; Disabled American Veterans; and American Merchant Marines Veterans Association.

Survivors include his children: Daniel Mcrae (Sylvia) of Tallahassee, Florida; Kathleen (Tim) Ryan of Colorado Springs, Colorado; John Schmidt (Diane) of Gainesville, Florida; Tracy (Dusty) Boyce of Monticello, Florida; and Ruth (Mike) Ivester of Ellijay, Georgia. John was the proud grandfather to thirteen (13) grandchildren and great-grandfather to nine great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother, Doug Schmidt (Sharon) of Kerrville, Texas, and his sister, Jackie Bishop of Austin, Texas. He will be buried with Military Honors at Tallahassee National Cemetery.



Charlen Marie Shore passed away on October 18, 2021. Charlen was born on January 8, 1942, to Albert Alexander and Lorna Penney Shore, at Gorgas Hospital, Ancon, Canal Zone, Panama. She graduated from Cristobal High School, class of 1959. She received her Associate's Degree from Canal Zone Junior

College before moving to Miami in 1964, where she went to Charron Williams Commercial College. Charlen worked for the Miami-Dade County Courts Department retiring after 30 years.

Charlen was always kind, generous, shy, and loving. She would help anybody and never spoke ill-will about anyone. She was the consummate lady and the most loyal best friend.

Being born and growing up on the Pacific and Atlantic Sides of the Isthmus was a precious gift to her. Some of the things she loved the most about it were: In the very early years in The Flats, getting to pet the deer that came down to the cul-de-sac where she lived. Moving to Diable and running behind the DDT truck in the early evenings, yelling and having a good time. Moving to Santa Claus Lane in Balboa, where Christmas time was a little more special. Going to Dorisse Waites dance classes and the wonderful yearly recitals. Swimming in the Balboa Pool and Amador Beach. Walking through the beautiful Summit and Morgan Gardens. Moving to the Atlantic Side in the early 1950s to live in Gatun was the icing on the cake! Getting to play around the bomb shelter on the side of the house and the jungle. Going down to the "Third Cut" in the back of the house. Swimming in Gatun Yacht Club, Gatun Pool, across the locks to Gatun Lake, Fort Sherman Beach, Pina Beach, and Devil's Beach. Playing ring-a-leevio and kick-the-can beside Bobby Geddes's house. Riding bicycles and roller skating. Going inside the Gatun Locks and sitting on the benches watching the transiting ships being lowered or raised in the chambers and learning the flag and country of each ship. Joining Rainbow Girls, attending the meeting above the UMCA, and having special functions at the Sky Room.

Last but not least, the two 7-day cruises every other summer on the great Panama Line ships from Cristobal to New York – with an adventurous stop in Port-au-Prince, Haiti – and back again at the end of summer. After arriving in New York, summers were spent in Woodlawn, Ontario, with Grandma and Grandpa Penney, Aunts, Uncles, and all the cousins. Playing in the woods, getting to know the animals on the farm, and swimming in the Ottawa River until it was time to cruise back home. It has been a wonderful life! She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Dr. Wallace McClure Snyder passed away at age 96.

He is survived by his wife Vilma Snyder, son Rod Snyder, and daughter Marlene Peters. He was a good husband and provider for the family.

Wally was born on July 6, 1925, and raised in San Antonio, Texas, to parents McClure Wilson Snyder and Johnnie Catherine Snyder.

He attended Breckenridge High School in San Antonio and graduated from Garfield High School in Seattle, Washington, where his family moved during his junior year. Wallace enlisted in the military in May of 1943, during his senior year of high school at age 17. He missed his graduation ceremony returning to San Antonio for active duty in July of 1943.



He was inducted to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, then sent to camp Fannin, Texas, for basic training. Within two weeks of basic training, he became ill and was diagnosed with Rheumatic Fever. Due to his illness, he could not return to the field, but he qualified to enter military college for the engineering program at Dahlonega, Georgia. He completed

his basic studies, and the program was closed, so he was transferred to the 10th Armored Division at Camp Gordon, Georgia. Again, due to his illness, he was transferred to the Station Hospital for OTJ training to become a medical technician in a laboratory. He became an expert in the diagnosis of Malaria and was promoted to Corporal, but was honorably discharged in May of 1946 due to his medical condition, ending the years of military service on active duty.

Still tied to the military in the reserves, he enrolled in the University of Texas at Austin. In his 3rd year of college, he entered the ROTC program for the Corp of Military Police, placing him in Military Police Reserves. In July 1950, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. after completing a course at Ft. Gordon, Georgia. He returned to duty at Ft. Sam Houston as a military police Lt. for two weeks, but he received admission into Medical School at UTMB in Galveston. He chose to leave the military police assignment to attend medical school in September of 1950. Entering his 3rd year of medical school, he attempted to enter the Advanced Medical ROTC program but was rejected again due to his medical history. Because of this rejection, they transferred his status from military police reserves to the honorary reserves. Wallace graduated from medical school at UTMB in Galveston, Texas, in June of 1954. When the time came to do his internship, he chose the Canal Zone from a list of available locations. In July of 1954, he began his internship at Gorgas Hospital. In March of 1955, he accepted a job at Coco Solo Hospital as a General Practitioner. He was still in the military as an honorary reserve.

At the end of 1956, he met Vilma Sofia Higuero and courted her until they married in March of 1958. In January of 1959, Wally and Vilma welcomed their son Roderick to the family. Then in January of 1960, he was honorably discharged from the reserves. His ties with the military ended at that point, and he was now a civilian working for the US Government. His medical condition altered his course in life multiple times while in the military, through his college years, and during the early years of his medical career. In 1960 Wallace chose to pursue the practice of radiology and returned to Dallas, Texas, to further his career. He decided to drive to the US from Panama. Doc and Vilma took one month to travel and see sites along the way. They left Rod with his grandma in Panama because they traveled in an open jeep. Upon reaching the US, Doc began his 3-year internship for radiology at a veterans hospital in Dallas, Texas.

In 1961 Wally and Vilma welcomed their daughter, Marlene, to the family. In March 1963, Wallace completed his internship and was assigned to a veterans hospital in Fort Bayard, New Mexico. Wallace worked at Fort Bayard Hospital for two years until his assignment was complete. He

then returned to the Canal Zone to complete the rest of his career as a radiologist. He was Chief of Radiology when he retired from government service in 1979.

During his life in the Canal Zone, he was known to most as Doc or Wally. He embarked on many adventures, and there wasn't a place you could go in Panama that he hadn't already been to.

He also traveled to every country in Central America except Belize and all of the countries in South America except Bolivia, Chile, and Paraguay. He also traveled most of Europe. Egypt was the only place he visited in Africa, and there was never any mention of Asia or Australia. Maybe 96 years isn't enough time. He loved exploring and always owned a 4-wheel drive vehicle to reach remote locations to camp and hunt. He was a member of the gun club and was an excellent marksman receiving a merit badge for shooting 50 of 50 clay pigeons. He also enjoyed the occasional deep sea fishing trips and did some lake fishing for bass. He took up archaeology and anthropology as a hobby and went on many digs in the Madden Dam area and various other locations in Panama. He was also an avid bird watcher and member of the Audubon Society. Hopefully, they didn't know he also liked hunting them.

He bought Rod and Marlene mini bikes at ages 11 and 9. So, to participate, he bought himself a motorcycle and got the bug for riding. He purchased five different motorcycles through the years.

Another hobby was a ranch he owned in the interior of Panama near San Carlos, which he named El Encanto. It was 750 hectares and 100 head of cattle and a few horses. He went there just about every other weekend. He also owned a property in Valle Chiquito, where the cattle were taken during dry season. Then, there was the beachfront property in El Palmar.

Wallace retired from government service in the Canal Zone in 1979. He returned to the US shortly after. He went back to work in private practice as a Radiologist in McAllen, Texas, until age 65. After his second retirement, Wally and Vilma sold their home in McAllen, Texas, and bought a motor home. He took on another job referred to as Locum Tenens. In this capacity, he would work for doctors who had their own private practice. He would negotiate how long he would take over their practice so they could take time off. This was usually from 2 weeks to a month. He had a medical license certified in each state he practiced. They traveled to all states, including Alaska, and Canada. Doc and Vilma did this for seven years.

At age 72, he had his fill of the motor home life, so they sold it and moved to Fort Myers for a couple of years. Later they realized they missed Panama and moved back in 1996. They bought a condo in Panama City. He was back to enjoying the Panama lifestyle, visiting with the in-laws, and traveling to the interior to the various locations he had come to love. San Carlos, El Valle, Santa Clara, Azuero Peninsula, Santa Fe, Chiriquí Grande, David, Boquete, and Volcan amongst others. He bought two parakeets, Sharky and Buzzard, which became his prized possessions and went everywhere they traveled. If a hotel or restaurant did not let him in with the birds, he would leave and look for another place.

He became a member of every society you could imagine.

To name a few: the Elks, American Society, Navy League, the Panama Canal Society and got a late start as a Mason and made it to the 32nd level. He was very proud of that achievement as the 33rd level is the highest achievable. Wally and Vilma spent 20 years roaming Panama in their retirement years. In early 2015 he had a mini-stroke, and they moved back stateside to live with daughter Marlene, a nurse. They remained with Marlene until he reached his final days.

Doc fought the good fight of life, outlasting all his doctors' claims that he would not live to age 35 and would not have children. His life was a great adventure and his time on earth was well spent. May he find great adventure in the afterlife.



Pamela Jane Tipping of Callahan, Florida, passed peacefully on July 18, 2022, after a courageous battle with ALS. It would be an understatement to say she passed without a fight. The truth is, she had always been a fighter. To tell her she couldn't do something would only push her harder to prove you wrong.

Pam was born July 29, 1948, to Mack and Dorothy Hicks in Ancon, Canal Zone, Panama. She graduated from Balboa High School on June 3, 1966, where she met the biological father of her only child, a daughter. She always said she had no other children because she was blessed with the perfect one the first time around. Little did she know, her daughter admired her most and aspired to be just like her.

Pam was a proud Panama Canal Zone Society member and was honored to be called a CZ Brat. She was also an accomplished guitar and piano player and had her own band in high school.

Pam settled in Jacksonville, Fla. in 1972, where she raised her daughter until they moved to her forever home in Callahan in 1986. She held many positions in the secretarial field to support her daughter. However, her favorite was with Glidco, from where she retired. Unbeknownst to her at the time, this is where she would meet her husband, Michael, who she would marry on February 14, 2015. He would later adopt her daughter in March 2017.

Pam was not only a mother but also a wife, daughter, sister, Tia, and friend. But her most prized pseudonym was Nana.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Mack and Dorothy Hicks; her best friend, Jeanne Williams and her beloved dachshund, Oliver.

Pam is survived by her husband, Michael Tipping; her daughter Amyjo (Tom) Means; Her grandsons, TJ (Kayla) Walker and Brendan Means; her great-granddaughter Kynlie Walker; Bonus great-grandchildren, Leland Bennett, Brantley Bennett, Rozlyn Bennett, Trey Popp, Will Brooks, Kamaya Berg and Kaden Walker; siblings Kenneth (Kimberly) Hicks, Richard Hicks and Judyrhea Buell, several nieces and nephews; numerous great nieces and nephews; as well as her dachshund, Princess Sophie.



Alexandra Elizabeth Wilder, 25, of Zephyrhills, Florida, passed away May 3rd, 2022. She was born January 12, 1997 in Zephyrhills to Jeffrey Arthur and Christine Marie (Mallia) Wilder and remained a life long area resident. She was a 2015 graduate of Zephyrhills High School and received her Associate of Arts degree from Pasco Hernando State College. She worked as a Personal Banker



with Centennial Bank in Lutz.

Alexandra is survived by her parents Jeff and Chrissy Wilder; sister Abby Wilder; grandparents: Ellen and Gary Anderson, Tom and Janice Mallia, Chris and LaVern Wilder; her fiancé Tyler Kirby; and countless close family and friends.