

## 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.



**Dolores Amelia Severino Andrews**, age 93, passed away peacefully at home on July 10, 2021.

Dolores, also known by family and friends as Lola, Lolita, and Dolly, was born in Ancon, Canal Zone, Republic of Panama. Throughout her life, she lived in Panama (Curundu & Panama City), Spain, Hollywood, Calif, and Tucson, Az.



Dolores was a mother to Eric, Edmond, James, John, Veronica and Mary Beth. She raised her children with love and devotion in Panama with her husband of more than sixty-two years, Eric B. Andrews (Tato). During this time, she also owned and managed several rental properties

along with her brother. She was very creative and always enjoyed sewing, crocheting, knitting, cooking, and entertaining family and friends. Even though her family was large, there was always room for one more at the dinner table.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Eric. Dolores is survived by her children Eric Andrews, Edmond Andrews, James Andrews, John Andrews, Veronica (Andrews) Burke, and Mary Beth (Andrews) Young; fifteen grandchildren, fifteen great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. She will be forever in our hearts.



**Thomas Grant (Richardson) Armstrong**, 78, passed away on June 7, 2021. He was born September 5, 1942, in Olympia, Wash., to Thomas Glen and Francis (Abbott) Armstrong.

Tom graduated from Balboa High School, Class of 1961. Following graduation, he served in the Navy until his honorable discharge in 1964. He moved to El Paso, Texas, where he worked for the El Paso

Natural Gas Company until his retirement in 1996. Tom then moved with his wife Nancy to South Bend, Wash.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his half-sister Maureen. Surviving him are his wife Nancy and stepson Mathew; his half-sister Karen (Richardson) Phillips; his son Steven Joseph Armstrong; and his daughter Danielle (Armstrong/Dillingham) Emmett and her husband; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

His biggest passion was keeping in touch with old friends from high school, friends of the Canal Zone, and attending some of their reunions. Tom was a member of the Panama

Canal Society. He absolutely loved Lucho Azcárraga, a Panamanian musical artist. He is dancing to the music of Lucho in heaven.



**Robert John Blair, Jr.**, passed away at his home in Menifee, Calif., on June 12, 2021, following a long illness.

Bob was born on Groundhogs Day, February 2, 1941, in Philadelphia, Penn., the firstborn to Eleanor Mary Blair and Robert John Blair, Sr. He spent his early years growing up in Ridley Park, Penn. Bob attended Leedom Elementary school. Following his father's discharge from the Navy Sea Bees, where he served in the South Pacific during WWII, the family moved to the Panama Canal Zone. The senior Bob Blair became Lock Master for the Gatun Locks on the Atlantic side of the Isthmus of Panama. Bob attended the "original" Cristobal High School in Cristobal, Canal Zone, and was heavily involved in school activities. He helped plan class assemblies; was one of the school's 21 members chosen to help classmates better understand the Pan-American countries around the isthmus; he was a staff member of the school's Tradewinds publication and yearbook, and was an enthusiastic member of the Glee Club and Drama Club. He put in four years of ROTC during high school. It's no surprise that he was voted "Friendliest" during his senior year by his classmates.

Following his graduation in 1959 (the last class to graduate from the Cristobal campus of CHS), he continued working as a lifeguard for the Panama Canal Company, his part-time job during his school years. In October 1959, he joined the U.S. Air Force at Albrook Air Force Base in the Canal Zone, subsequently serving in the logistics field at multiple U.S. bases until his honorable discharge in October 1965.

After his military service, Bob attended the University of Maryland, where he earned a B.S. degree in Social Science; and where he met and married his first wife, Patricia Bittman. He went on to earn a Master's Degree in Recreational Therapy from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Because of his love of learning and teaching, his father nicknamed Bob "The Professor." It was a fitting title because Bob was the first in the Blair family to attend college and the only one to get an advanced degree. Following earning his degree, Bob and Pat moved to Hagerstown, Md., where they bought a historic farmhouse, started a family, adopting a boy and a girl, and living a bucolic country life, complete with horses.

Bob's work career was primarily spent as a dedicated civil servant, working in the social services area of healthcare with the federal government, including the Veterans

Administration. He also spent some time with private health systems. His career took him from Maryland back to his adopted home of Panama, where he worked for the Panama Canal Company from 1982-1985. After Panama, Bob returned to the U.S., where he worked in Portsmouth, New Hampshire; King City, Calif.; Montgomery, Ala.; Reno, Nev.; and, finally, ended up in Menifee, Calif. His tenure in King City is particularly significant as that is where he met and married the love of his life, Ernestina (Tina), in 1989. They met through a chance introduction by a mutual friend at the church they attended. Bob found his soulmate in Tina, and he never stopped praising her wonderful cooking throughout their more than three decades together.

Bob was always a people pleaser. He was a certified recreational and occupational therapist who loved helping people live life to the fullest by overcoming various disabilities. Bob never stopped loving what he did and continued to stay active with his professional associations, dreaming of starting his own business someday instead of just being retired. He was the epitome of the eternal optimist, even as he fought terminal cancer, going about his daily routine as though nothing was wrong.

If you knew Bob at all, you know that he never met a stranger and seemed to have a sixth sense for befriending those most in need of a compassionate listener and confidant. He was much loved by the patients he worked with, many of whom had no family and were veterans suffering from PTSD, alcoholism, and mental illness, as well as physical disabilities. During his years with the V.A., his wife, Tina, recalls a co-worker telling her that all the patients wanted to see Bob vs. the other counselors because they loved him so much. The fire that lit Bob's life went out in the early morning hours of June 12, 2021, in his home in Menifee with his loving wife, Tina, by his side. Death finally won out after the long and courageous battle he waged with an extremely rare form of liver cancer, Cholangiocarcinoma, that went undiagnosed until the last month of his life.

Bob would want to be remembered as a compassionate person who loved his family, friends, country, and life. Bob was as generous with his time and means as anyone you will ever meet, truly exhibiting what it means to be a Christian. He worked hard, loved deeply, and sang loudly with a beautiful voice that he used to rejoice in song and express his love of God.

Bob was predeceased by his parents. Bob is survived by his wife of 32 years, Tina Blair; his son, Keith Blair, of Chandler, Az.; his daughter Jennifer Blair Bono, of Tacoma, Wash.; his brother Dain Blair, of Los Angeles, Calif.; his sister, Marjorie Blair Bulone, of Seminole, Fla.; and nine grandchildren, Jacob Blair, Jenness Daelyn Bair, Bailey Brooks, Chayse Bono, Lyric Bono, Shayne Bono, Jaedyn Bono, Peyton Bono, and Finely Marshall. He also has two nephews, Christopher Bulone and Justin Blair; and two nieces, Lauren Bulone and Taylor Blair. Bob was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



**Shirley Harrington Boswell** of Fort Myers, Florida, passed away June 20, 2021, peacefully in her sleep.

Born in Akron, Ohio, on July 17, 1933, to Robert and Jennie (Hutchison) Harrington, the family moved to the Atlantic side of the Canal Zone in the 1940s. Shirley was in the Cristobal High School Class of 1951. After graduation she returned to Akron, and met Jerry Boswell. They were married in 1953 and had three children, Debra, Michael, and Steven. The family moved to the Canal Zone in 1963, where Shirley reconnected with family and friends. She held many positions in the Panama Canal Company over the years and made many more lasting friendships.

After retirement in the early '80s, Shirley and Jerry settled in Holiday, Florida, where they enjoyed all the grandkids that came along. She was very active member in the Panama Canal Society of Florida, and received the Distinguished Service Award. Shirley held the secretary position for some time. Jerry was instrumental in getting the Society computerized during that time.

She moved to Fort Myers to be closer to her daughter and family in 2004. She worked for several years at the Liz Claiborne outlet in Ft. Myers and made many great friends there. They called themselves "The Liz Girls" and had many get-togethers over the years.

Jerry passed away in May of 1996 and then her youngest son, Steven, in October 1999. Shirley is survived by her daughter, Debra (Phil) Sanders of Ft. Myers, Fla.; her son, Michael (Lesa Lavern) Boswell of Tomball, Texas; daughter-in-law, Carmel Nacrelli Boswell; sister, Peggy Harrington (Norm) Currier; brother Robert (Mary) Harrington; brother-in-law Peter Foster; ten grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.



**Silvia Elena Castillo de Duncan**, "Mamacita" made her last journey home on April 16, 2021, to be in the arms of Jesus Christ. She chose the time to be with her firstborn, our brother, Thomas Albert Duncan and our father, her husband of fifty years, Thomas Joseph. Born August 11, 1918, in La Chorrera, Panamá, the last of ten children, she rejoiced on memories of her childhood, and how much she enjoyed going to school and climbing trees. She lost her own mother when she was only five and her rural school only went to sixth grade, so after completing there, she was then sent to boarding school in Panama City.



Upon completing secondary school in 1935, she began teaching elementary school. During that first

year as a teacher, her father fell ill and left to his glory, too. In 1936, she began nursing school at the University of Panama from which she graduated in 1939. She continued her studies while working and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Health Science with a Specialty in Nursing and Public Health. She was given a scholarship in 1947 to attend Western Reserve (now Case Western Reserve University) in Cleveland, Ohio. At that time, it was considered the top nursing school in the United States.

Silvia had left the dashing "James Cagneyesque" Tom Duncan in Panamá while she pursued her studies. In 1949, Silvia paused just long enough for Thomas Joseph Duncan to ask for her hand yet again. They married in April of that year. Firstborn Thomas Albert came along a year later. Even in motherhood, Silvia pursued an opportunity to continue advancing her career. She received a fellowship through the World Health Organization to attend Columbia University in New York City from which she received a Master's Degree in Nursing Administration in 1953, the same year in which her daughter Martha Elizabeth was born. She returned to Columbia in 1965 for a six-week course in new curricula for Public Health Administration. She always honored her status as an alumna of this prestigious university.

Professionally, Silvia received many accolades and continued to contribute to the World Health Organization. They tried unsuccessfully until the early 1960s to bring her onto their staff. During the next few years, she traveled throughout Central America, Brazil, Mexico, Ecuador, and Europe attending seminars presenting her research papers. Exactly nine months after a side-trip to Paris on which her husband accompanied her, Diana Patricia was born.

In 1977, changes in Panamá prompted a career change when the couple decided to leave their beloved Panamá and settle in the U.S., first in Tuscaloosa, Alabama where Martha was in graduate school and where Diana began her undergraduate degree. Diana wanted to transfer to the University of Florida so they moved to Gainesville.

At age 95, "Mamacita" was presented a prestigious award by the Nurses Association in Panamá City, announcing that the guidelines she established in public health and nursing in the 1960s were still held as the model.

Silvia is preceded in death by her devoted husband, Thomas Joseph Duncan, her son, Thomas Albert Duncan and all her siblings. At 102 years old, Silvia remained bright, alert, ever faithful and she brought joy to all who knew her. To know her was to love her.



He grew up with the Berg, Barbier, Pederson, the Baldwin families, and Eddie Conn, to name a few. Playing baseball, riding bikes, learning to drive, and school activities forged these forever friendships. The Panama Canal Society hosts an annual "Zonian" Reunion that Ed enjoyed attending. Growing up in Panama was the best of both worlds because Ed had all his mother's family with lots of cousins his age, and he shared a special love for Bobby, Nixia, Jorge, and Eva. There are many stories only that group would be able to tell.

Ed's educational accomplishments include graduating from Balboa High School in 1961 and Canal Zone Junior College in 1963. He moved to the U.S. to attend and graduate from the prestigious Pasadena Playhouse in Pasadena, California, in 1966. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts, Ed produced, directed, and acted in more than 96 productions at Unity by the Sea in Santa Monica, California. One of the reviews called his productions "an amazing accomplishment for one so young." He met Barbara Primicerio at Unity by the Sea, where they co-produced many shows, but their ultimate production was that of their daughter, Janelle.

Ed made his living in Sales. He worked for Seiberling Tires, Janiserve Uniforms, Prudential Overall Supply, Zagers Sanitary Supply, Inc., and Unifirst Corporation. He received stellar reviews with each company for his organizational skills, extensive product knowledge, and ability to acquire new clients while maintaining long-lasting relationships. These are part of his life accomplishments, but those only give a glimpse into the heart and soul of this great man. His role of actor and sales brought him success, but his father and grandfather, aka "Gampa," made him the proudest. His one and only child, Janelle, was his greatest joy. Together, they would spend weekends in Santa Monica going to the beach, trying out local eateries, shopping in the outdoor malls, and horseback riding in Malibu. One of Janelle's favorite memories is her dad reading the comics in the Sunday Morning Paper. He would read them aloud with character voices and made the comics come to life!

Ed was proud to become Gandpa to three amazing grandchildren, Colby, Callie, and Colin. He traveled from Florida to visit them in California many times. When he wasn't able to travel, he was happy to FaceTime his grandchildren, often quizzing them about geography or asking about their studies in school. They also enjoyed teaching him the art of texting as another form of communication. Janelle and her brother, Matthew, would share in a laugh every time that Ed would text a funny joke or video, always adding countless emojis to emphasize his point.

Ed is a brother to Bill Eddleman and Laura (Eddleman) Davenport. He lived with Bill when he first moved to Clearwater, Florida, in the late '90s. Together, they enjoyed holiday meals, spending some time on the golf course (in the winter months), and most recently would meet up to watch old movies with the Tampa Bay Classic Film Club. They enjoyed re-watching films like *The Wizard of Oz*, *Citizen*



**Edward Henry Eddleman** passed suddenly in Florida on July 28, 2021. Ed was born on May 8, 1942, in the Republic of Panama. He was the oldest son of Joseph W. and Julieta "Judy" Eddleman.

Ed grew up in a part of Panama called the Canal Zone. The Canal Zone was made up of military and civilian personnel. Ed made lifelong friends in Cocoli, a townsite on the west bank of the Panama Canal.

*Kane*, and *The African Queen*. Ed, or “Eddie,” as his siblings knew him, would always remember special occasions with a phone call or a handwritten card.

He was the teller of exceptional stories and, with his acting background, used fun character voices, one-liners, and often, total soliloquies of favorite passages. He also bonded with one of his neighbors, James “The Man” Mann, who spent many moments listening to Ed’s stories while serving as “tech specialist” with any WIFI, iPhone, or TV challenge. Ed also shared many stories with Elizabeth “Betty” Berg-Tajiani and her mother while visiting their home in Tampa. He was grateful for these friendships and support from his family. One could often find his humor in comments or clever quips on social media. His humor will live on through every comment, text, or video he shared.

His parents, Joe, and Judy preceded Ed in death. Ed is survived by his brother Bill (Debbie) Eddleman, their children Christopher and Erica; his sister Laura Eddleman (Mike) Davenport, their children Adriane and Josh; and his daughter, Janelle (Peter); and grandchildren Colby, Callie, and Colin.



**Isabel (Wood) Egan** passed away on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021, after a year-long battle with pancreatic cancer. Isabel was born in Panama Hospital, Republic of Panama, on February 6, 1935, to parents Joseph J. Wood and Isabel Fajardo Wood. She grew up in Ancon, Canal Zone and attended Canal Zone schools, graduating from Balboa High School in 1953. She attended the Canal Zone Junior

College for one year, then transferred to Marion College in Indianapolis, Indiana where she spent one semester, but had to return to the Canal Zone when her father became ill and passed away. She then moved, along with her family, to Gainesville, Florida and attended the University of Florida, from which she obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. After a year of employment with the Panama Canal Company, she enrolled in Fordham University in New York, where she received a Master’s degree in Social Work (MSW), leading to a rewarding career as a social worker, primarily working with children and families. While studying for her masters, she met her husband, Howard Egan, who was pursuing his PhD in philosophy. In addition to her career as a social worker, she began volunteering for the Holland Society as a genealogical research assistant.

After living in New York for over 30 years, Isabel left to be closer to family in Virginia. She was fortunate to obtain employment with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in Washington, D.C., where she enhanced her considerable expertise in genealogical research. Through research into her own family, she was able to proudly identify a number of ancestors who took part in the Revolutionary War. Upon retirement from the DAR, Isabel relocated to Riverview, Florida, continuing her genealogical research and occasionally volunteering at the Panama Canal Museum.

Isabel (Izzy) was a kind, caring and giving person who

was loved by many. Her family was everything to her. She doted on her nieces and nephews and grandnieces and grand-nephews and was always there for them whenever they needed her. Izzy had many friends with whom she stayed close, in some cases, for over 60 years.

Isabel was predeceased by her parents and by her husband, Howard Egan. She is survived by her brother, Joseph “Joe” Wood and his wife, Beverly of Tallahassee, FL.; sister, Ann Wood and her husband, Ray Sanchez of Riverview, FL.; and seven nieces and nephews (Melissa Ortiz, Raymond Sanchez, Christina Alvarez, Daniel Sanchez, Craig Wood, Brian Wood, Scott Wood), their spouses and children, who all loved and will greatly miss their “Aunt Izzy.” She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



**Sarah Katherine Purdy Fitzpatrick** of Denton, Texas, went to be with her Lord and Savior on July 10, 2021.

Sarah was born April 16, 1940, in Kingsport, Tenn., to Maj. Francis Fremont Purdy and Sarah Katharine “Kay” Terry Purdy. In 1947, Sarah and her family lived in Makati (part of Metro Manila), where Maj. Purdy served as Operations Manager of the Manila Electric Company.



In the early 1950s, Sarah’s father was transferred to the Panama Canal Zone to help maintain the electrical systems of that most important waterway. The family settled in Balboa Heights near the southern/Pacific end of the Canal, near Panama City. Sarah spent her teenage years in Panama, eventually graduating from Balboa High School in 1958.

After high school, Sarah attended Virginia Intermont College in Bristol, Virginia. Upon graduation, Sarah went to work for Eastman Kodak Chemical Company, which was headquartered in Kingsport. She was sent to work in Chicago and, while there, became enamored with the commercial airline industry that was starting to flourish. She immediately decided that she wanted to be a part of this industry, so she applied for a position as a stewardess with Pan American World Airways. Sarah graduated from the training academy in 1962 and settled in Miami, where she would be based.

Sarah loved being a flight attendant during this time. It was the Jet Age - and it was a new, elegant, and exciting profession. She got to travel all over, meet all sorts of people, and enjoyed every minute of it! During this time, she met a charming pilot and co-worker, Earl William Fitzpatrick, who was also based in Miami. The two hit it off and were married in 1968.

The couple settled in Reno, Nevada, where Earl would commute to San Francisco to fly the Far East routes on the then-new Boeing 747. They built a house in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and started a family together. Sarah’s children were born in Reno - Michael Earl in 1972, Stephen James in 1973, Kevin Thomas in 1975, and Stacy

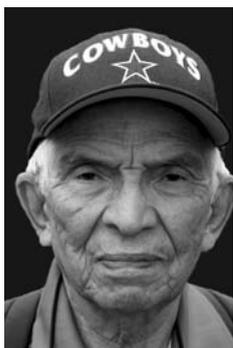
Eileen in 1976.

In 1979, the family relocated to Denton, Texas. Around this time, Sarah turned her eye to real estate. She started work as an administrative assistant at Tony Raposa/Realty World in 1979, eventually received her sales license and, over time, her broker's license. Over the next ten-plus years, she would sell real estate in Denton County and surrounding areas for Realty World, Century 21, Ebby Halliday, and Re/MAX. In the late 1980s, the real estate market went bust, and Sarah decided to return to the air, joining American Airlines as a flight attendant in 1988. She started with domestic routes but then graduated from flying the international routes to Europe and Asia as her seniority rose and her children grew and left home. She thoroughly enjoyed flying and received numerous commendations from management for her performance and customer service. Sarah retired from American in 2009 to spend time with her family, especially with her grandchildren, whom she so dearly loved. She continued to work in real estate in the Denton area until 2020.

Sarah was a profoundly spiritual and religious person. She began attending Saint David of Wales Episcopal Church in Denton in the mid-1980s. Over time, she became a more active member, teaching Sunday school, acting as Lay-reader, or doing whatever else needed to be done. She was very proud of her service and eventually became a President of the Order of the Daughters of the King at Saint David's. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Sarah is preceded in death by her father, Francis Purdy; her husband, Earl Fitzpatrick; her mother, Katharine Purdy Wilburn; her brother, Chip Purdy; and her stepfather, Edward Wilburn. She is survived by her children, Michael Fitzpatrick of Nutley, NJ, Stephen Fitzpatrick of Denton, Kevin Fitzpatrick and wife Lindsay of Amarillo, and Stacy Archer and husband Tony of Denton; her grandson, Noah Archer of Denton; and her granddaughters Ryleigh and Bryn Fitzpatrick of Amarillo.

Sarah is also survived by her sister-in-law Sharon Purdy, her nephews Sean Purdy and Sterling Purdy and their families, her stepdaughter Donna Fitzpatrick, and her stepson John Fitzpatrick and his family. Sarah was a one-of-a-kind soul who will be greatly missed by all who knew her; her humor, her love, and her seemingly infinite supply of kindness were a blessing to all.



**Ernest Wilson (Ernie) Forrest** passed away on January 22, 2021, with his family by his side in Garland, Texas. He is survived by his wife of sixty-two years, LaDonna; brother, John; four sons; Ronald, Kelly, Terry, and Wayne; and nine grandchildren.

Ernie was born in Lima, Peru, on May 11, 1933. He arrived in the Canal Zone at the age of eleven with no knowledge of English. He entered school shortly after that, quickly mastered English, and graduated from Cristobal High School in 1954.

After graduation, he traveled to Memphis, Tenn., enlisted

in the United States Air Force. Stationed in Rabat, Morocco, he had the good fortune of visiting other countries, such as Portugal, Spain, and Germany. When his tour was finished in Morocco, he was stationed in Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, where he met his future wife, LaDonna Rowe. Both Ernie and LaDonna worked at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, as telegraph operators – Ernie on the military side of the wall and LaDonna on the civilian side. When he saw LaDonna for the first time, he went to her supervisor and stated he was going to marry that girl. The supervisor told him, “she doesn’t date,” but that did not deter Ernie. He finally was able to get his first date with her a few weeks later, and seven months after that, Ernie and LaDonna were married in Dayton, Ohio.

After Ernie was discharged from the Air Force, he returned to the Panama Canal Zone, where he obtained an apprenticeship with the Electrical Division (telephone operations). He rose from an apprentice to the Atlantic Telephone Operations Foreman over a long, twenty-six-year career with the Canal Zone. He retired from The Panama Commission in 1983 and has resided in Garland, Texas, since 1985.

He was active in the Atlantic B.P.O. Elks, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Little League baseball, the France Field Air Club, and a member of the Panama Canal Society. His favorite activities were riding a motorcycle, boating, fishing, flying his airplane, and playing a role in his family's work and play.

Ernie enjoyed telling stories about his life and always managed to have a tale that was relevant to whatever topic was at hand. One of his many stories was going to Germany and signaling to the waitress what he wanted to eat, flapping his arms for chicken, or assuming a swimming motion for fish. He loved his family and would take any excuse to gather with his loved ones and celebrate their time together. As a man of many different experiences, he was always eager to share what he knew and kept learning new ways of working, living, and loving until the end. He was a man of great character and personal warmth. Ernie's infectious laugh and ever-present smile will be missed by anyone who ever had the opportunity to meet him.



**Robert G. Forsythe** passed away on June 14, 2021. Bob was born in the Colon Hospital on September 6, 1923, to Daniel and Grace Forsythe, who came to the Zone in 1912. Robert's wife, Alice, and son, Edward John, preceded him in death. He is survived by his daughter, Edna Wilkinson; granddaughter, Andrea Michael; grandson, Dylan Forsythe; and great-granddaughters, Abigail and Sage.



Bob's younger years were spent in New Cristobal, moving to the Pacific side to start elementary school in Balboa and graduating from Balboa High School in 1942. Soon after graduation, he was employed at the Panama Air Depot for a short period

before beginning his mechanical apprenticeship and was employed at the Balboa Shops, Mechanical Division. In November of 1945, he was drafted into the U.S. Navy (U.S. Naval Station and U.S. Submarine Base, Balboa) and served until July of 1946. He returned to the Balboa Shops, where he continued his employment with the Mechanical Division until its shutdown/merger and relocation to the Industrial Division at Mt. Hope.

Bob began courting Alice Taylor in 1945 when she was employed at the Panama Air Depot. On September 21, 1946, they were married and spent over 69 years together until Alice passed on January 18, 2016.

After the Balboa Mechanical Shops closure, Bob was sent to Gatun Locks in 1950, where he worked as a Machinist until his retirement in December 1979 (with a total of 37 years of service with Panama Canal Company). Their two children, Edna and Edward, attended Gatun Elementary School and Cristobal High School. The family always treasured the camaraderie of Gatun and memories of those times and the friendships that were established.

Upon retirement, Bob and Alice relocated to Sacramento, Calif. They enjoyed retirement in the Sacramento area, became involved in a Flying Shriners group, and purchased their plane (Cessna, 182). They began making trips to the Atlantic coast of the U.S., visiting friends and relatives from California to Florida, where their son, Edward, lived.

On September 11, 2002, they moved to Melbourne, Fla., where their daughter, Edna, and granddaughter, Andrea, resided, and since Edward lived in nearby Palm Bay, Fla., the family was once again together.

He is a member of the Panama Canal Society.



**Jimmy Ray Givens** passed peacefully on May 20, 2021, at the age of 89, at the Big Ben Hospice in Tallahassee, Fla. Born in Dothan, Alabama, to John and Opal Givens, he was a graduate of Leon High School and Florida State University and served in the Air Force. After graduating from Florida State University with an accounting degree, he moved to Panama and was

hired as a management intern. He retired as Assistant Health Director after 28 years of service from the Panama Canal Commission. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Jimmy was an avid baseball and softball player and took to golf in his later years. His warm and genuine personality made him many lasting friends while in Panama. Those friendships were maintained when he retired and moved to Tallahassee, where he remained a devoted husband to Hilda, his wife of 48 years.

He is preceded in death by his parents, brothers Bill and Fred, and grandson Mario. He is survived by his beloved wife Hilda; sons John, Mark, Luke; daughter Teresa; grandson Marco, granddaughters Kelly and Anna; and brothers Jack and Bobby.



**Sheila Donavin Gordon** of Daytona Beach (formerly of Boynton Beach), Fla., passed away at the age of 81 on August 2, 2021. She was born on January 29, 1940, to William and Dorothy (Boyd) Donavin, in Malvern, New York.

Sheila earned her Master's of Arts from Ball State University in 1988 and proudly practiced Clinical Psychology. She served as the CEO at Renaissance Recovery Center in Lake Worth until she retired in 2010.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Gail Wallace, and Mike (Mower) Gordon. Shelia is survived by her partner: Mike Blais; three sons: Patrick (Jill) Gordon of Virginia, Chris (Penny) Gordon of Colorado, and Brian (Tracey) Gordon of Indiana; a sister: Ann Peppis of New York; seven grandchildren: Erin, Katie, Quinn, Hannah, Ashley, Alexa, and Abbey; three great-grandchildren: Charlotte, Liam, and Shea; and two beloved felines, Oscar and Guinness.



**Julian B. Hall Jr.**, 80, lovingly known as "Butch" to his family and friends of Plantation, Florida, passed away on June 20, 2021 (Father's Day) suddenly and totally unexpectedly. He was born at Colon Hospital in the Canal Zone on October 26, 1940. He graduated from CHS in 1958 and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force stationed in England for four years.

Butch was gifted musically and played the piano, guitar, horn, and violin. In high school, he had a band where he also sang and performed with his band at many school dances.

After he retired from the State of Florida as an electrical engineer, he started another full-time career – something he truly loved to do – practicing and teaching the art of yoga. He opened his yoga studio for a while but decided he would rather travel the world learning more about the yoga he loved than being tied down to a studio. So he sold the studio and traveled the world – he was so happy in that element! At the time of his death, he was still teaching yoga.



He was a long-time member of the Panama Canal Society and loved to attend the reunions every year. He also was a volunteer yoga instructor at the annual Reunions. He looked forward to dancing every year – he was fabulous and had no trouble getting a dance partner!

He had just turned 80 last year, and he was still teaching his beloved yoga at the time of his death. Butch loved every minute of it, and his students loved him!

He was preceded in death by his parents Julian B. Hall and Lucille M. (Lyew) Hall.

He is survived by his two children Jeremy and Melaney Hall. He is also survived by his three siblings Ruby (Hall) Enman; Barbara (Hall) Vose-Kulig; Michael Hall, and Sister-in-Law Sandy; nieces Darla (Vose) Creek and Wendy Enman; nephews Kevin Vose, Robert Vose and wife Dawn, and Michael Enman; great-nieces Isabella Vose, Jade, and Demi McNulty; great-nephews Shane Vose-Mora, Jonathan Creek, and Bobby Vose. He is also survived by many, many great friends. As he had requested, no services were held – he wanted no fanfare and wanted everyone to remember him as he was. He will always be remembered by his family and friends with lots of love.



**Thomas Fredrick McCullough** of Pawleys Island, South Carolina, passed away at the age of 80 on April 15, 2021.

Thomas was born on October 23, 1940, in Colon, Panama, to Maurice “Feathers” and Hazel “Snookie” (Heim) McCullough, the second of their five children. His grandfather, George Washington Heim, was a Roosevelt medal recipient for his work on the Canal during the Initial Construction Period (1904-1914). His family’s heritage working on the Panama Canal was a source of pride throughout his life. Tom was happy to have contributed to the family legacy by working for the Canal’s Dredging Division as a young man.



Apart from a few years in Zanesville, Ohio, when he was a teenager, Tom grew up in Panama, graduating from Balboa High School with the class of 1958. Tom was a proud veteran who served in the United States Navy, and following his discharge, he returned to Panama, married Virginia Austin, and started a family. He attended Canal Zone College before returning stateside with his wife and first-born daughter to earn a Bachelor of Science in Electronic Engineering from Northrop Institute of Technology in Los Angeles. Tom’s career as an Electrical Engineer for the U.S. Navy included postings in Newport, R.I., Philadelphia, Penn., and Madrid, Spain. During his retirement years in Pawleys Island, S.C., he enjoyed his association with local chapters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and the Elks Lodge.

Tom was kind-hearted and well-liked, with an easy-going nature that belied the heart of an adventurer. From hunting and fishing as a boy, and solo airplane flights as a young man in Panama, to running with the bulls in Spain among his extensive travel throughout Europe as an adult, Tom enjoyed challenging himself to see new places and have new experiences. He was a quiet, private person who loved those within his circle of friends and family deeply. He will be dearly missed. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

The beloved father of two daughters, Tom was preceded in death by his infant son, Kyle; father, Maurice; and mother, Hazel; and his beloved dog, Patches. He is survived by his daughters, Krystel and Shari; his siblings Judith, Donald, Joan, and Susan; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews. Following Tom’s wishes, the family will scatter his ashes and hold a memorial service to celebrate his life on October 23, 2021, which would have been his 81st birthday.



**Edna Alice (McArthur) Mikez** was born in her beloved Republic of Panama, the fourth of six children. Growing up in the Canal Zone, she graduated from Balboa High School in 1947. The love the McArthur family shared for each other was passed on to the next generation. Family meant everything, later adopting the motto Nothing Beats Family. She met her husband George in the Canal Zone and remained there until they retired in 1980. Texas became their next home, where they were happy to have their children nearby. The Canal Zone was always a huge part of her memories, and she always talked of the wonderful life she had growing up there.



Edna was a devout Catholic, and one of the most memorable trips she took was a pilgrimage to Medjugorje. She gave her time unselfishly, caring for her mother in Panama and later visiting nursing homes to pray the rosary with the residents. Edna asked for very little, saw beauty in everything, loved to laugh, enjoyed the simple things in life, such as watching the birds and squirrels outside her window and always felt blessed with her family and friends.

Edna was preceded in death by her loving husband George Mikez, siblings William McArthur, Ruth (McArthur) Ingram, Charles McArthur and George McArthur, and parents Eusebia and William McArthur. The remaining McArthur sibling, Edgar (Bobo) McArthur recently passed away in August.

Edna is survived by daughter Debbie (Tim) Conard and son George (Kristi) Mikez, as well as grandchildren Michael Conard, Brian (Claudia) Conard, Tom Hoover and Carleeanna Hoover, great granddaughters Kress and Mary Sims Conard, as well as many nieces and nephews.



**Lois “Jeanne” Nelson** was born on 23, 1931, in Springfield, Illinois, eldest of four siblings to Frances Moore Arnold and Elmer Ellsworth Arnold. Jeanne Nelson was best known in the Canal Zone and Panama for her work as a Registered Nurse in the Operating Room of Gorgas Hospital. Upon graduating from St. John’s College of Nursing, Jeanne and two of her classmates

were commissioned into the US Navy as Lieutenant JGs during the Korean War. During this brief period, Jeanne was awarded the highest medal a woman could receive at that time for saving fellow staff and personnel from a knife-slashing patient.

Jeanne married LTJG Joshua J. Nelson for sixteen years, choosing not to reenlist to qualitatively raise her three sons. They traveled the world with duty stations every two years until arriving at the 15th Naval District of the Panama Canal Zone in 1970.

After two years, Jeanne took the boys with her to Balboa, where they resided on Tavernilla Street of Sosa Hill as Jeanne began a twenty-year career with Gorgas Hospital. She was always an incredible cook, from her grandmother's mentoring to learning how to create culinary dishes from around the globe. Her minor and passion in college was art, and her paintings and encouragement to her children resulted in two Art Educators and Artists and a Tool Engineer. Following the 1989 Invasion of Panama, Jeanne took early retirement. She returned to the United States, residing in Safety Harbor, Fla., Seattle, Wash., Peoria, Ill., and Chicago, Ill., where she quietly passed on June 3, 2021.

Jeanne is predeceased by her former husband (Ret.) CMDR Joshua J. Nelson and her brothers Carl and Ron. Jeanne is survived by her sister Sharon Young; sons Mark, David, and Joshua; and three grandchildren Gabrielle, Evan, and Samuel.



**Bruce Quinn**, 85, the theater director who brought joy to audiences for over 60 years, passed away peacefully in Panama on May 7, 2021. He was credited with directing more than 100 plays and musicals. He brought Broadway-quality shows to the Canal Zone and Panama, where only traveling troupes and school productions were seen. Bruce

was born February 28, 1936, in the Panama Canal Zone, the son of Marcus Patrick Quinn and his wife, Berta Isabel Escobar Garcia de Paredes Quinn.

He is survived by his sister, Pat Quinn, best known in the movies for her role as "Alice" in Arthur Penn's film "Alice's Restaurant;" and by his brother Marc Quinn, former U.S. Marines officer and retired Ombudsman and Administrative Assistant to the Administrator, Panama Canal Commission.

In the February 1982 program for Bruce's production of "Amadeus," at the Ancon Theater Guild's Wayne Stanley described Bruce's talent perfectly: "People attend Bruce Quinn productions because they know it will be a theatrical experience to remember. His ability to capture a world in his stage settings; his ability to "people" that world and his ability to give that world life through his direction make his productions a celebration of life." Such talent is rare. Where did the gift to know the human heart come from? Family helped.

Bruce's grandfather Patrick Joseph Quinn was born in 1875 into an Irish family in Newark, New Jersey. He married Jane Frances Corrigan from an equally Irish family and acquired three brothers-in-law, Joseph, Peter, and John

Corrigan. Their enthusiasm would convince Patrick to join them in the building of the Panama Canal. Patrick signed on with the Isthmian Canal Commission as a boilermaker in 1907 and brought his family to the Isthmus in 1908 when Bruce's father Marcus was six years old. Young Marcus could not have known then that he would ultimately become the Panama Canal's Chief of the Management Division. Nor would he know that a future wife would make their children descendants of Luis Garcia de Paredes--royally designated by the King of Spain in 1788 Commandant of Fort San Lorenzo guarding the mouth of the Chagres--and whose descendants had flourished in Panama ever since. When Berta was born in Panama in 1907, it seemed within the realm of possibility for Marcus to meet her and for Bruce to have her as a mother. But by the time she was a teenager, her father had moved the family to Cali, far off in Colombia. Just as Bruce developed into a one-of-a-kind director, the way Bruce's parents met was also one-of-a-kind, called in ancient Greek theater "deus ex machina" (by the intrusions of the Gods). A major fire destroyed the center of Manizales, another Colombian city. U.S. contractors were hired to rebuild the city. Among its engineers: Marcus Quinn. Afterward, they got a contract to build roads in Cali. There, Marcus met the girl he had never met in Panama. Smiles on all sides. Ultimately, Berta's mother accompanied Berta to Panama to be married to Marcus by the same priest that married her mother and father. In their marriage, Marcus and Berta benefitted from a lively extended family full of Garcia de Paredes grandparents, aunts, and uncles on Berta's side and Irish grandparents, aunts, and uncles on the Quinn and Corrigan sides. For Bruce, as a youngster, he had to make sense out of those two different worlds while living in a third working world of neighbors united in a common purpose: to make the dirt fly. This experience of different human relationships prepared Bruce to tell the myriad of stories he brought to life in the theater in English in the Canal Zone and Spanish in Panama.

Bruce wrote about his early years: "The radius of my life was pivoted around the first two four-family apartments at the beginning of Barnebey Street next to the Balboa Elementary School. I still remember the house number: 758. It was where my love for theater began. During the dry seasons, high school drama teacher Subert Turbyfill staged plays in the patio of the Elementary School, and my first play was seeing Jeanne Flynn in the "Taming of the Shrew" and then Jeanne with John McGinniss in "Romeo and Juliet." I saw those two great masterpieces before I even entered elementary school. I started my theatrical life at the top!"

After graduation from Balboa High School in 1954 and two years of service in the Army, Bruce returned to the Canal Zone and earned his first theater credit with his first love: scenic design. He designed the set for a summer melodrama at the Balboa High auditorium, "The Dead Sister's Secret." It starred as the villain, John Mayles, the Isthmus' best actor, who later acted in many of Bruce's plays. The next year Bruce approached the Ancon Theater Guild's board of directors and showed them his scenic designs for the Rogers and Hammerstein musical, "South Pacific." They were impressed. He wanted to direct but realized he did not know all that he needed to know. When Don Musselman, a veteran drama teacher at Balboa High School, offered to mentor him, Bruce

grabbed the opportunity. Their team made "South Pacific" a big success, and in the next three years, Bruce--on his own--brought to the stage "Life With Father," "My Fair Lady," and "Brigadoon."

Bruce's directing used a much lighter touch than his "commandant" genes predicted. Instead, Bruce had a great sense of humor, and his sense of artistic balance gave a wryness to the instructions and comments given to his actors. They were his clay, and he treated them carefully. He trusted them to be the character that he had chosen them to be, and that trust made them work even harder to assume the character. Along the way, Bruce recognized that what he did was not for the applause nor the feeling of success in the community, but for the sense of family closeness that builds among the cast working on a show. In his words, "Each show creates a family, a family that laughs together, gets the sniffles together, worries together, and triumphs together; actors, stagehands, make-up people, costumes, box office, musicians, perhaps a hundred people in a musical. One heart beating together." That's why at the end of a run, the cast would sing to him from "Oliver!", with tears in their eyes...

I'd do anything for you, Bruce, anything.  
For you mean everything to me.  
I know that I'd go anywhere for your smile anywhere  
For your smile everywhere I see.



**John Dennis Ruble** returned to our Lord on February 3, 2021, at the age of 83, following years of his courageous fight with cancer.

Born in Livingston, Tenn., on May 20, 1937, to John (Sr.) and Elnora Ruble, John was the sixth of nine children. At age 18, he left his agrarian roots and enlisted in the U.S. Army. Stationed in the Panama Canal Zone, he would meet his wife and the love of his life, Doris (Arosemena), on his first visit to a local Church where she taught Sunday School. Marrying in 1958, they would soon have their first child, Nora (Doris), in 1959, followed by Buddy (John Jr.) in 1960 and Leisa in 1964.

Working as a U.S. Customs agent until his retirement in 1981, John was also known for his love of cars and mechanical expertise that he put to use on his vehicles as well as those of his friends and neighbors. Following his retirement, John joined his family in Seattle, Wash., and then relocated to Florida several years later. Living in the Sunshine State, he would start his own business in property management, further employing the deft hands and mind for mechanics that drove his automobile hobby. Fully retiring after this, John returned to his home state of Tennessee and lived out his final years with his wife in their beautiful Cordova home. John would continue working on his vehicles, including his prize-winning Model A that he had brought from the Canal Zone and entered many local car shows, until only a few months before his passing.

He was also active in his family life, often visiting his sib-

lings around the country and his daughters and grandchildren in the greater Memphis area. He remained active in his local Church and became known as the "Cookie Man," not just to his fellow parishioners but many of the people he met. A gifted baker, his cookies were a special treat for anyone lucky enough to know him!

John joins his parents and siblings Claxton, Glenn, Bud (Leisel), and many other family members in heaven. He is survived by his loving wife Doris: three children Nora Hope (Eddy), Bud Ruble (Donna), and Leisa Johnston (Jeff); three grandchildren, Russell, Cade, and Cristina Patton; and great-grandson Cade Patton Jr., all of whom he loved dearly. His positivity, kindness, and cheerful attitude will be missed deeply by all. John was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

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Captain **Paul Louis Skrable**, 95, of Mountain Home, formerly Sioux City, passed away Saturday, July 24, 2021, of natural causes in Mountain Home.

He was born in Sioux City, Iowa, to Emma Bokholt and Frank Louis Skrable. He entered service in World War II with the Merchant Marines. In Korea, Army Staff Sgt. Skrable, a member of the 5th Regimental Combat Team (RCT), received the Combat Infantry Badge and was awarded the Purple Heart after being wounded in battle. He sailed with the Merchant Marines for 20 years, visited many ports worldwide, and obtained an unlimited Master Captain license.

In 1966, he moved to the Panama Canal Zone to begin his career as a maritime pilot, guiding ships through the Panama Canal. He retired after 24 years of service and, in 1990, moved permanently to Mountain Home, Ark.

He was the former Arkansas State Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and a member of several other fraternal orders and societies including, the 5th RCT Association, the Merchant Marines, the Panama Canal Pilots Association, the Abou Saad Shrine, the Elks Club, the American Legion, the VFW, the Panama Canal Society, and the Masonic Lodge of Sioux City.

Throughout his life, he enjoyed the Ozarks, fishing, woodworking, and especially college football; as an avid fan, he never missed the Saturday games.

He is survived by his wife, Maria Dolly Skrable; his sons, Luke, Mark and Paul; his niece, Barbara Roseen; and his grandchildren, Robin and Alexandra. He was preceded in death by his mother and father; his first wife, Yvonne; his older brother, John; and his nephew John.



**David Duke Thompson**, 62, died November 21, 2018, in Memphis, Tennessee, of a heart attack. Born on December 21, 1955, at Gorgas Hospital to Earl and Maria Duke, David was welcomed with great joy right before Christmas by his siblings Gloria and William. They lived on Davis Street in Diablo Heights, Panama Canal Zone.

After Earl Duke died in 1967, David was adopted by



Robert Bruce Thompson and Maria (Duke) Thompson. They all lived in Gatun, where he was a big brother to Patricia, Bruce, and Elizabeth. He had a heart of gold filled with love and care for his family, friends, and pets.

When David left the Canal Zone, he made Memphis, Tenn. his home, especially after meeting his wife Linda and raising his children there.

Eventually, he encouraged Elizabeth, Bruce, Patricia, and his widowed mother Maria to follow him there. He gave them his total support whenever they needed him.

David was predeceased by his father Earl Duke, stepfather Robert Bruce Thompson, and mother Maria (Duke) Thompson. David is survived by his daughter Amanda and son-in-law David Rothenbusch; his ex-wife Linda Thompson; stepchildren Lisa Stahl, and Brian McWilliams. He is also survived by his siblings Gloria Duke Wilson, Patricia Thompson, Elizabeth Thompson, William Earl Duke, Miguel Thompson, and Bruce Thompson. He will be greatly missed by all of his family. May he rest in sweet peace.

ing as Lt. Col. and Deputy Commander of the 8th Special Forces in Ft. Gulick, Panama Canal Zone. His family lived in numerous military locations in the United States, Germany, and the Panama Canal Zone, where Chuck graduated from Cristobal High School in 1966. He also spent one year at Canal Zone Jr. College before transferring to the University of Florida in 1967, where he graduated in 1970.

During his stay in the Canal Zone, Chuck played in several rock bands, including performing as the drummer in “The Castaways,” a well-known and local Canal Zone band, the members with whom he would remain best friends for the remainder of his life. “The Castaways” re-grouped in 2002, performed at several subsequent Canal Zone Reunions in Orlando, Fla., and even released two music CDs. Chuck was also an accomplished athlete in the Canal Zone, where he participated in Football, Track, and Basketball. His friends were numerous and loyal, and he maintained those friendships throughout his life.

After returning to Fayetteville, North Carolina, Chuck joined his parents in the Weber Realty Company. With his knowledge, creativity, and keen business sense, he brought great success to that company and then developed and grew Morganton Management, LLC into the well-known, respected, and prosperous organization it is today. Chuck had a talent for detail and an eye for beauty that was evident in his building projects and his homes.

Chuck was a beloved and loyal friend who enjoyed life’s pleasures and sharing them. He was fun and kind and generous, and people enjoyed being around him. He was an avid wine connoisseur, loved humor, laughter, and being the number one practical joker.

He will be sorely missed by his beloved partner and mate, Carol Strickland, his sister Sherrie Rutledge, her husband Ken, their children and grandchildren, and the family of his deceased sister, Vicki. He will be missed by his many friends, especially his Canal Zone friends.



**Charles F. Weber (Chuck)** passed away peacefully in his home on June 20, 2021. He had fought a long and courageous battle with cancer and faced many challenges with his always positive attitude. He was an inspiration to all and never lost his wicked sense of humor throughout that time.

Chuck was born on May 19, 1948, in Fort Benning, Ga. He was an “Army brat,” as his father was a career officer in the US Army, including once serv-

## CANDID REUNION PICTURES

