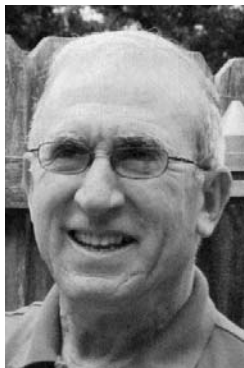


WITH DEEP SORROW

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 (Bob) Baggott passed away on Saturday, June 2, 2023.

Bob was raised in the former Canal Zone in Panama and grew up in the Curundu township. He was an exceptional athlete and graduated from Balboa High School class of 1965. Bob also attended Canal Zone Junior College in 1966.

Bob retired from the US Army as a Full Colonel in July 1996 and wrote the Aggiegram (a newsletter about A&M) to Aggies all over the world every week for 20 years! He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

He was buried at the Oklahoma National Cemetery near Fort Sill with full Army Honors.

Bob is survived by his wife, Terry Barris Baggott, his daughter, Christine Cherie Serrill, his son, Robert Gordon Baggott, Jr. his son-in-law Col Ryan Serrill and his grandson, Duncan Andrew Serrill and his granddaughter, Ainsley Quinn Serrill.

Daryl and Melinda, six grandchildren and soon-to-be five great-grandchildren.



Grover Robert Barnes, known to all as "Bob," was a man who truly lived life to the fullest, with a contagious laugh that could light up a room. Born on June 8, 1941, in Ancon, Canal Zone, Bob swam his way into this world and continued to make a splash throughout his life. On April 18, 2023, at the age of 81, Bob decided to hang up his swim trunks and float on to his next adventure, passing away peacefully in Dothan, Alabama.

Bob's career was a testament to his love for the water. As a swim instructor for the schools' division and a Red Cross-certified instructor, he taught countless children and adults the joy of swimming. Before retirement, Bob

was an Admeasurer and Boarding Officer for the Civil Service, where he measured ships and collected tolls, ensuring that the Panama Canal remained a vital waterway for global trade. Throughout his career, Bob was known for his dedication, professionalism, and ability to make everyone feel at ease with his humor. When he wasn't working, Bob was an avid outdoorsman who loved camping, hunting, and playing softball. He could often be found in the great outdoors with his family and friends, enjoying nature and making memories. Whether he was telling stories around a campfire or trying to convince everyone that he had invented a new way to cook marshmallows, Bob's enthusiasm for life was infectious.

Bob's love of swimming extended beyond his career. He had a unique ability to make even the most timid swimmer feel confident in the water, and his gentle encouragement inspired many to conquer their fears and learn to swim.

Above all, Bob was a loving, generous, and gentle man who will be remembered for his kindness, humor, and devotion to his family. His laughter will continue to echo in the hearts of those who knew and loved him, and his memory will be cherished by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Bob was predeceased by his parents, Grover R. Barnes and Anna L. Barnes, and his brother, James Barnes. He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Irene Barnes, who he was lucky enough to convince to marry him in 1966. Together, they created a beautiful family that includes their sons, Bill (Cristina) Barnes and Kevin (Tracy) Barnes. Bob was also a proud grandfather to Angel, Javier, Isabella, Sarah, and Emily Barnes, who will carry on his legacy of laughter and love. In addition, he is survived by his sister, Joanne



Barry Thomas James Balint, LTC, Retired US Army, passed away on April 10, 2023 at the age of 87, in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Barry was born on June 7, 1935 to Anthony Louis Balint and Elinor Jacqueline Looser Balint in Fords, New Jersey, the second of four boys. He graduated from Woodbridge High School and Pennsylvania Military College, graduating as a Distinguished Military Student and receiving his regular Army commission as a 2nd lieutenant.

He married Jacqueline Gifol Balint on April 6, 1956, and they began their 22 years of military life. Barry went on to flight school, becoming qualified in both fixed wing and helicopters. His military career included moves to 13 states, Germany and Panama, as well as, two tours in Viet Nam. Barry was well decorated for his service, receiving the Purple Heart, Bronze Star with V for Valor, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal w/30 oak leaf clusters, Meritorious Service Medal w/4 oak leaf clusters, National Defense medal, Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

Upon retirement, he moved the family to California to work in the civilian sector of defense. After 42 years in California, he and Jackie moved to Colorado Springs. They celebrated their 67th wedding Anniversary on the 6th of April. Barry passed away just four days before their third great-grandchild was born and a month before welcoming a great-grandson.

Barry leaves behind his wife Jackie, his daughters Debra,

Barnes, and sister-in-law, Rose Rindfus. Bob was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Paul G. Bennett, 82, died peacefully in Honolulu on March 9, 2023, in the company of his wife and four children. Born in September 1940, in Ancon, Canal Zone in Panama, to Lieutenant Colonel Arden Bennett and Mercedes Reluz, Paul was the second oldest of six siblings.

Paul was a 1958 Balboa High School graduate, ROTC Battalion Commander, a National Honor Society member, and elected runner-up “Most Likely To Succeed.” Upon BHS graduation, Paul graduated from Northwestern University, received his commission, and proudly served four years in the US Navy as a Supply Officer in Vietnam. Following his discharge, Paul attended The Stanford Graduate School of Business. While at Stanford, he met his future wife, Diane Huarte, at an event hosted by his sister, Ruth. They had a whirlwind, 6-month romance and married in December of his second year. After receiving his MBA, Paul began a lifelong career in international agribusiness when he accepted a job as a financial analyst with Castle & Cooke (Dole Bananas). This career choice was certainly never dull, taking him and his growing family to six different countries, including Central and South America and the Philippines. Subsequently, Paul joined C. Brewer as President of Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Corp. He ended his career as CEO of Sakata Seed America. While with Sakata, he served as Chairman of the Board of the American Seed Association. To the amusement of his children, Paul loved to share his deep knowledge of broccoli, bananas, macadamia nuts, and seeds with their friends at parties and gatherings.

Paul will be interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl, on Oahu. It is a site that held special meaning for him because of his military service and interest in military history. Paul was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Margarita Berg Gomez, age 100 and widowed since 1996, passed away peacefully in her home in Tampa, Florida, on June 16, 2023, of complications from Alzheimer’s disease. Youngest daughter, Betty, was at her bedside. Margarita (occasionally “Márgara”) was born July 10, 1922, in the rural village of San Martín in the Alanje District of the Province of Chiriquí in the Republic of Panama. Her father, Juan F. Gómez Concepción, was born in Boquerón, Chiriquí; her mother, Lorenza Muñoz Betia, was born in Alanje, Chiriquí. Their marriage



ended in 1926 after sisters Casimira and Margarita were born.

Her first step-father Juan Álvarez and mother had a home near the town of Dolega, north of the city of David, the provincial capital. It was in that cool mountainous region where Margarita grew up. She attended school only through sixth grade; her mother kept her out of school to help with necessary work around the home. Then, prodded by her controlling mother, she married a young local businessman at age sixteen. Their marriage produced one son; divorce soon followed, and the infant remained with his father in accordance with the law in Panama.

One day in early 1939, while working with her mother as housekeepers for a doctor in Puerto Armuelles (Pacific Ocean banana port in Chiriquí Province), Margarita was setting out freshly baked bread in the doctor’s backyard. Curtis L. Berg from North Dakota, a handsome, 34-year-old, sandy-haired, blue-eyed American civil engineer in his tenth year with the United Fruit Company, saw her in the backyard. Confident of his social status, he knocked on the doctor’s door and was met by Margarita’s mother, Lorenza, who introduced himself and asked permission to take the young girl to the local movie theater. Lorenza objected in every way imaginable. Curtis and Margarita, however, met secretly for some months until they eloped later that same year. They were married for 57 years until his death.

Their first daughter, Inez, was born in David in May 1940. Soon after, Curtis left United Fruit and began work as a heavy equipment operator for an American defense contractor in the Canal Zone. The United States was hurriedly improving its military installations in the Zone, expecting to be drawn into the expanding war in Europe. With the aid of a midwife, Margarita delivered their first son, Carl, in a two-story rental apartment in Casco Viejo, Panama City, 56 days before Pearl Harbor. Just after the war against Japan was declared, Curtis began work (civilian machinist) as a Navy Fuels Division essential employee at Rodman Naval Station. He was allowed family quarters in LOCONA, a nearby housing area annex of the Navy base, and that was home during the war years until about early 1945. Their third child, Stanley, was born in August 1943 in a Panama City hospital, and their fourth child, Franz, was born in June 1945 in the Canal Zone-Panama border town of Arraijan. Curtis bought a small rural farm property with a two-story house in Pedregalito in the summer of that year. The fifth child, Janice, was born in July 1947 at the farmhouse. A short time later that same year, the Bergs made a permanent move to the Panama Canal Company townsite of Cocoli, Canal Zone. In the summer of 1951, the family vacationed in the United States, mostly in Perth, North Dakota, and Hillsboro, Oregon.

In 1953, Margarita became a baptized member of Jehovah’s Witnesses, the faith she embraced until her recent passing. Her sixth and last child, Betty, was born in May 1954 at Gorgas Hospital in Ancon. A resident of Cocoli from 1947 until July 1970 (when Curtis retired from Navy civil service), she was an exemplary housewife and loving mother. Over those years, she attained great self-esteem, became self-educated, learned English, exemplified fine housekeeping, and was an outstanding cook and seamstress. She was on friendly terms with other Panamanian housewives in Cocoli. Siamese cats and parakeets were her special pets.

In July 1970, Curtis, Margarita, and Betty left the Canal Zone and permanently moved to Tampa, Florida. They made four or five return trips to Panama to visit oldest daughter, Inez, and her family in Curundu. In 1994, Margarita became a naturalized U.S. citizen but kept her Panamanian passport. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

She is preceded in death by husband Curtis in 1996 and daughter Janice in 2020. Without her knowing, second son Stanley died of a heart attack in Phoenix, Arizona, on June 16, just a few hours after her own passing. She is survived by her daughters, Inez of Panama and Betty of Tampa, Fla.; sons Carl of Arizona and Franz in Pennsylvania; twelve grandchildren; and fifteen great-grandchildren.



Stanley “Stan” Clayton Berg, age 79, passed away from a heart attack in Phoenix, Arizona on June 16, 2023. He was born August 10, 1943, at Hospital de Panama in Panama City, Republic of Panama, while his father had U.S. Government family quarters in LOCONA [Navy housing annex of Rodman NavSta], Canal Zone. His father, Curtis L. Berg, was from

Perth, North Dakota; his mother, Margarita Gómez Berg, was from San Martín of the Alanje District in the Province of Chiriqui in Panama. Upon birth, each of the six Berg children was registered as a U.S. citizen at the American Embassy in Panama City. The family moved from Pedregalito, a small farm property sixteen miles east of Panama City, to the Panama Canal Company’s new townsite of Cocoli in the summer of 1947. Their four-family quarters until 1956 were on Avocado Place in The Hollow, later a duplex on Nicobar Avenue from 1956-1970.

Stan attended kindergarten and grades one through six at Cocoli School in Cocoli, Balboa Junior High in Balboa, and graduated from Balboa High in 1961. He was a pitcher on the NAVY teenage baseball team at Rodman NavSta and a pitcher-catcher on the Palomas team in the Fastlich Teenage League in Balboa. He attended Canal Zone Junior College from 1961-62 and 1962-63. He made the Dean’s List those four semesters and then graduated from Florida State University in Tallahassee in late 1964 with a B.A. degree in American-English literature.

Shortly afterward, he earned a USAF reserve commission as a Second Lieutenant at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, in 1965. After six months at Laredo AFB, Texas, he did not complete cadet pilot training. Next, as a Supply Officer, he was stationed at a remote radar site near Lewistown, Montana; then with a Red Horse squadron at Utapao Royal Thai AFB in Thailand; then at Eglin AFB, Florida, separating from the USAF in 1972 with captain’s rank with almost six years of active duty. After a move to Tempe, Arizona, that same year, he earned an M.A. degree in literature at Arizona State University in 1974. Over the following 28 years, he taught American-English literature at Peoria High School, Westwood High School, and Red Mountain High School in the greater Phoenix area and retired in 2002. Many of his stu-

dents admired the encyclopedic knowledge of his subject and his teaching professionalism.

He married Sue Luke of Rodman Naval Station, Canal Zone, in 1966; the marriage lasted six years but produced no children. In 1982, he married high school art teacher, Dianne Christensen of Glendale, Arizona, and that union produced one daughter, Jacqueline Brandy Berg. Dianne died of a stroke on April 1, 2015, in Mesa, Arizona, shortly after her retirement.

Stan, many years ago, abandoned the wet, green jungle of the tropics for the dry, brown desert of Arizona; he replaced mango trees and mahogany trees with the prickly pear and saguaro cactus. He enjoyed hiking under clear blue skies in the mountains near Phoenix, preferred Arizona sunsets to those in the Canal Zone, and never again wanted to experience another typical rainy season in faraway Panama, his birthplace.

Stan, Dianne, and Brandy traveled together to many parts of the world (six continents), especially after his retirement. In 1977, he and his father made a highway round-trip from Phoenix to Panama City, Panama, to Phoenix in Stan’s 1972 Ford pickup camper. He had a special liking for Mexico and Costa Rica, their people and culture. In 2013, Stan and Dianne toured Panama; in 2019, he and Brandy did the same. Stan owned a modest home in Ahwatukee, a suburb of south Phoenix, sharing it with several tom cats. He had an extensive personal library of books, music, and movies. He played the rhythm guitar but never to the level he desired. NFL football was his favorite sport, and Johnny Unitas was his favorite player. His home is a museum of artwork, souvenirs, mementos, and artifacts from all over the world. He was a news-hound, always knowledgeable of national and international affairs.

Merle Haggard was his favorite male singer, and Doris Day was his favorite female singer (and actress). In 2016, AuthorHouse published Stan’s 203-page *Brandy’s Unicorn* of modern poetry subtitled: Songs of Love and Loss, Faith and Doubt, People and Places, Comedy and Tragedy. In 2022, Stan completed a 712-page fiction novel titled *All I Thought Was True*, aptly subtitled: Memoirs of a Glorified Babysitter. A limited number of copies will be printed this year.

Stan is preceded in death by his father Curtis in 1996, mother Margarita in 2023, younger sister Janice in 2020, and wife Dianne in 2015. He is survived by his sisters, Inez of Panama and Betty of Florida; brothers Carl of Arizona and Franz of Pennsylvania; his daughter Brandy of Arizona; stepson Donald of Arizona; and tom cat Tom Jones, Esquire. Stan’s ashes are placed next to his beloved wife, Dianne, in Glendale, Arizona.



Diane L. Brown, caring wife of the late John Brown and loving mother to Stacie Brown Riccio, left this world on June 23, 2023, after a six-month battle with heart failure and cancer. She was 78 years old.

Born in Reading, Pennsylvania, she was the youngest daughter of Rocco and Rose Giardiello. After she

and John married on May 28, 1966, they chased their dreams and moved to the Panama Canal Zone, where John served in the United States Army. He went on to serve in the Panama Canal Zone Police Department and, in 1974, became a Deputy United States Marshall. They both relished their time in Panama and deeply cherished the amazing lifelong friends they made there.

In 1976, they moved to Columbia, South Carolina. Diane was extremely active in her community. She worked for the Richland School District and served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for Midlands Epilepsy Association. In Columbia, Diane discovered her love and talent for baking and designing Custom Wedding Cakes. She started her own cake-decorating business and took great pride and satisfaction in her ability to create amazing cakes and core memories for hundreds of families and couples.

Diane and her family returned to Berks County in 1985 and moved to Douglassville, Pa. It was there Diane began working for the Daniel Boone School District. She served in various roles as the Truancy officer for the Daniel Boone School District and the faculty staff advisor for the Interact Club, where she enjoyed immense popularity among the staff and students alike. She continued to grow her custom cake business, even personally delivering her delicious creations as far away as Annapolis, Maryland.

She and John moved to Wyomissing, Penn., in 1999. There, Diane became heavily involved in the Heart's Promise Sheltie Rescue and, at any given time, had several rescue and foster Shelties in her care.

She is predeceased in death by her parents, husband John, and her Sister Maryann Rimby. She is survived by her daughter, Stacie (Joseph) Riccio of Middleburg, Virginia. Diane was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Harry Vern Colbert, Jr. passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on May 11, 2023, surrounded by his spouse and family. Harry had been quietly fighting A-typical CML Leukemia for the past two years.

Harry was born on November 24, 1942, in Gorgas Hospital, Ancon, Panama Canal Zone, to Harry V. Colbert, Sr. and Graciela Maria Cabanas Arosemena Colbert. Harry graduated from Balboa High School in 1960 and immediately enlisted in the United States Air Force. After his basic training at Lackland AFB in Texas, Harry was assigned to Ramey AFB in Puerto Rico and a few years later to Beale AFB, California, as a dental technician. In 1964, Harry transferred to the USAF Reserves Homestead AFB in Miami, Fla., as an aircraft loadmaster, serving another five years.

Upon his honorable discharge, Harry reunited in 1964 with his parents and siblings in Lake Park, Fla. He attended Palm Beach Junior College with his sister, Laura. His brother, Jimmy, joined them in 1965 after he graduated from Jupiter High School. It was one of their father's proudest moments—all his kids attending college together.

While attending college, Harry also held down a job. He

worked for an attorney/developer and then as a bank teller. It wasn't long before New York was calling, and Harry was off to NYC in 1966 to seek his fame and fortune.

He began working for J.P. Stevens, a large textile manufacturing company, but when he heard that Pan American Airlines was hiring, he immediately applied and was hired. This is where Harry's life changed from the gentle, bespectacled, and friendly Zonian to a gregarious, multi-lingual renaissance man! While working for Pan Am, he traveled the world, becoming one of their most highly regarded travel executives.

With the demise of Pan AM in the '80s, Harry lost his dream job but got hired by Air Panama, which was based in Miami. Harry returned to Florida, living in Miami's Coconut Grove District for a few years, before being offered a position with Scheduled Air Transportation Office (SATO) to work in their Mayport Naval Station, Jacksonville office. Harry received President Reagan's Letter of Commendation in 1987 for his extraordinary assistance during preparations for Memorial Services for the men lost aboard the USS *Stark*.

Harry meets Rick Mucci, and a new chapter in his life opens. They both had this vision of changing the world and making it a better place for all to live. They invested in a gentrification project in Jacksonville's Springfield Preserve, buying and renovating an older home. They received a certificate of recognition in 1989 from the City of Jacksonville's Historic Landmarks Commission.

Harry and Rick moved to Tampa after Rick received a big job offer with Cardinal Health. Harry's wonderful work relationship with SATO allowed him to work remotely from his new home in Tampa. Harry was "avant-garde" before we knew what "working remotely" meant. Singapore came calling, and Rick is off to a new job offer by Big Pharma. Harry is holding down the proverbial fort in Tampa when Rhode Island Pharma calls Rick with a better job offer. They sell their lovely two-story Tampa home and buy a three-story historic home with a four-car detached garage on the edge of Brown University's Campus. Harry and Rick marry in Boston, Massachusetts, during this flurry of moving and jobs. Life is good.

Again, Rick is off to Singapore, as he received another excellent job offer. Harry is in charge of preparing their historic home for sale when devastating news arrives that Rick has passed away suddenly in Singapore. A wonderful celebration of life for Rick is held in his hometown of Jacksonville.

Harry does his best to heal and move forward with his life. He meets a young man Peter J. Carmichael, who lives in Long Beach, New York, and who happens to be a surfer. Soon Harry and PJ are off to California. They purchased a beautiful two-story home in Oceanside, just a 10-minute drive to the beach. Harry continues working remotely with SATO, and PJ teaches high school earth science. Harry and PJ are married later in Hawaii. Life is good again!

Harry longs for Florida, and PJ is looking for warmer ocean waters, so in 2019, they decided to move to Florida. PJ finds a teaching job, and Harry sets out to find their new home in Florida while PJ finishes the school year in California and sells their home. They settle in Stuart, Florida, which works perfectly for PJ as the ocean is just 20 minutes away, and Harry finally gets to live close to his family.

Harry was predeceased by his father, Harry, Sr., in 1994; his mother, Graciela, in 2004; and his first husband, Rick, in 2013. He is survived by his spouse P.J. Carmichael; his sister Laura Taft (Scott); his brother, Jimmy (Cyrese); his nephew, Donovan; his niece, Laura-Cyrese Ferrick (John); and his great-nephew, Beau Ferrick; the Mucci Family; the Carmichael Family; the Sarmiento Familia; the Crooks Familia; and Harry's Panama Canal Zone Family from Balboa, Cristobal and Curundu. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Harry had a passion for life, family, and friends. He was a caring, gentle, and positive man. He was immensely proud of his Latin Heritage and was equally proud to be an American Patriot! To know Harry was to love Harry. We that did are better human beings. Gracias Harricito...Un Fuerte Abrazo!



Joshua Michael Duffus, 43, of Mill A, Washington, left us peacefully on June 28, 2023, at the OHSU Hospital in Portland, Ore., where he was surrounded by family and friends.

Josh lived most of his life in the Columbia River Gorge. He was born in Goldendale, Wash., on Feb. 8, 1980, to Jim and Clover Duffus and grew up in Bonneville with younger sister Tina. He attended Stevenson High School during 1994–1998, where he met Rachel Kock, whom he eventually married. The two later moved to Bellingham, Wash., to attend college before returning to the Gorge, where they wed on July 24, 2004.

Josh and Rachel soon welcomed sons Miles (16), JJ (13) and Will (10). In 2020, Josh was diagnosed with esophageal cancer, which he bravely battled for nearly three years.

Josh was an extremely dedicated son, husband, father, friend, and an active member of the community. He was an employee of Insitu, a Boeing Company based in Bingen, Wash., and was an avid professional photographer (joshduffus.com). Josh participated in local organizations, including the Mill A Community Church and the Mill A Fire Department, and was a coach for numerous youth sports teams in Skamania County. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Josh loved to cook and eat and was a master of the Big Green Egg grill. He traveled regularly for family trips, for concerts, and to play golf, a sport he loved dearly. He was a cherished friend to many, participated in fantasy sports leagues, and loved playing elaborate board games and watching movies. Josh is deeply missed.

Russell Eugene Favorite, 82, of Englewood, Ohio, passed away on July 30, 2023. He worked for many years as a Police Officer in the Panama Canal Zone before working as a US Customs Inspector in the Panama Canal Zone and the United States.

Russell is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Ann Favorite; sons, Steven Favorite (Sarah) and Christopher

Favorite (Colleen); daughter, Jennifer Kayser (fiancée Tony); sister, Ginny Neidt (Don); grandchildren, Austin Kayser (Margaret), Caelan Kayser (Audrey), Rian Tucker, Lacy Favorite, Eliana Favorite, David Favorite, and Joseph Favorite; great-grandchildren, Raelynn Kayser, Jonah Kayser, Iyla Kayser, Elizabeth Louise Kayser, and Mark Kayser. He is preceded in death by his parents, Benjamin and Virginia Favorite, and brothers, Benjamin Favorite, Howard Favorite, and George Favorite. He was a member of the Panama Canal Zone Society.

Charles E. “Charlie” French, 82, passed away peacefully at his home in Mendon on July 24, 2023, after a period of declining health.

Born on April 2, 1941, in the Colon Republic of Panama, he grew up in the Canal Zone, where he excelled as a baseball, football, and track athlete. Charlie attended college in Vermont, where his passion for golf bloomed, graduating from Castleton State College with a master's degree from St. Michael's. He met his wife Carol (née Morse) at Castleton, and they were married on June 26, 1965, settling and raising their family in Rutland.

Charlie taught school in Vermont for 35 years, spending the bulk of his career teaching mathematics at Rutland Junior and Senior High School. Time outside of family and career was spent nurturing his golf game, playing at Rutland Country Club most days in the summer, and working on his putting and changing club grips in the winter. Many were the summer evenings, after a morning round, when Charlie would say he was going back to the course “just to play one and two.” His children loved caddying for him and sharing his many successes on the golf course, from his multiple Club Championships and team tournament victories to his participation in the Vermont Amateur, Mid-Amateur, and US Senior Amateur tournaments. Charlie was inducted into the RCC Hall of Fame in 2004. In more recent years, he enjoyed teaching his grandchildren the game. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Carol; children, Stephen (Joy) and Susan (Steve Sampson); grandchildren, Ryan and Caitlin French and Elizabeth and Lauren Sampson; brothers, Worden (Drue) and Lewis (Elsmary); and several cousins, nieces, and nephews.



Thomas L. Hanna, 77, (1945-2023) died on Good Friday, April 7, 2023 in Ocala, Florida. Tommy or “Dorsey” (as most childhood friends called him). Elaine (Vestal) Lewis, his longtime friend and life partner, and Terry Shell, Tommy's daughter, were by his bedside at the Ocala Trauma Center. Tommy had a serious fall outside a hotel in Hernando, Florida (Citrus County) while visiting his brother and hit his head on the concrete and never regained consciousness. He was in good health otherwise.

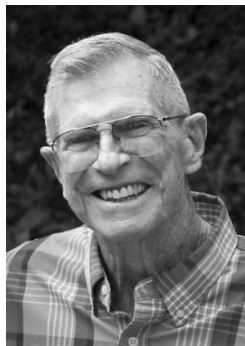
Tommy graduated from Balboa High School in 1963.

After graduation, he served four years in the US Air Force during the Vietnam era. Subsequently, he attended Heald College in San Francisco, CA. and returned to the Canal Zone and became an apprentice in electronics. At Heald College he completed most of his course work toward a degree in engineering. As his career advanced with the Panama Canal Company, he became a supervisor for the centralized maintenance and technical support for the Panama Canal Company/Commission, U.S. Military, and other U.S. Government agencies in the maintenance, and repair of portable radio equipment for the Pacific Sector. He organized and directed work operations including installation, overhaul and corrective/preventative modification, and field design for radio systems and ancillary equipment.

Tommy was born in Margarita, Canal Zone and lived on the Atlantic side for his early childhood years. However, most of his life, he lived on the Pacific side with his parents and three brothers.

Tommy's favorite hobbies were deep sea fishing and restoring antique British motorcycles, at which he truly excelled. He completed roughly 25 bikes over his lifetime. Each one was a work of art, mechanical genius, and beauty. Tommy had many friends and always had a funny joke or a story to share. He made people laugh. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Tom is survived by his daughter, Terry Shell of San Antonio, Texas, his son Marc Hanna of North Carolina, his three brothers, Bob, Bill, and John (Nini). He has four grandchildren, Lily Shell, Waylon Shell, Caitlyn Hanna, and Kara Hanna. He was very proud of each of them. Tommy is loved and has been missed by all who knew and loved him. RIP, Tommy.



Dr. Lawrence Edward Horine (Larry) finished the race on Wednesday, October 19th, 2022, at Appalachian Brian Estates in Boone, North Carolina, at the age of 91.

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather and a determined athlete, passionate educator, patient mentor, and wonderful dancer. He leaves behind a legacy of excellence as a champion for health, education, and physical activity.

Larry was born on March 4th, 1931, in Colon, Panama. Growing up, he lived the idyllic life of the youngest in the tropics riding his Vespa scooter from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. During his years at Cristobal High School, Larry first met Mary Ellen Stacy, the brilliant valedictorian and cheerleader from Balboa High School, who was, in his own words, "far out of his league." His marriage to Mary Ellen would last over 60 mostly joyous years before her passing in 2015.

Following high school, Larry traveled from Panama to the United States to visit his siblings who were living in California and Colorado and to make decisions about where to attend college. Initially, it might've been unclear if playing sports was Larry's ticket to higher education or if higher edu-

cation was Larry's ticket to playing more sports; but from the moment he stepped onto Colorado University at Boulder's campus in 1949, the two would become intrinsically tied.

At CU Boulder he would become a living legend – formally inducted as such in their Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008 – and would letter in college football, baseball, and track and field in addition to obtaining his B.S., M.A., and Ed.S. and becoming a lifetime member of the Sigma Nu and Delta Phi Kappa fraternities. After graduation, Larry went on to play professional baseball both in Panama and for the minor league Philadelphia A's and in 1956 was drafted into the NFL by the San Francisco 49'ers. Larry was commissioned into the US Air Force and spent two years at Ramey Air Force Base in Puerto Rico as a 1st Lieutenant before returning to Panama with Mary Ellen. He became the Superintendent of Athletics for the Panama Canal School System and supervised the design and construction of recreation centers across the Canal Zone, cementing a passion for physical education that would persist for the rest of his life. Further offers and accolades followed as Larry and Mary Ellen settled their young family in 1968 in Boone, where he took a position within Appalachian State Teacher's College in the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. He would later Chair the department for nearly a decade and quite literally write the textbook for it, Administration of Physical Education and Sport Programs (originally published in 1985, now in its fifth edition). Larry was pivotal in helping usher the college into the UNC System as Appalachian State University.

Other accomplishments included founding and serving as the director for the International Studies Department; being awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to Germany; accepting further teaching positions awarded by the US Sports Academy in Cairo, Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangkok, and Kuala Lumpur; and starting the first community-based nursing education program and cardiac rehab programs in the region. However, for all the hats worn and offices held in his professional life, the mantle Larry was most proud to wear was that of a husband and father.

His children remember him as a dreamer with an indomitable spirit, quick to laugh and slow to anger, who was their favorite coach and most ardent fan both on and off the field. He and Mary Ellen would raise two ER physicians and an epidemiologist, all as individually driven and passionate as their parents. When tragedy struck the Horine family in 1998 with the early death of their middle son, Sherwood, Larry embraced his son's widow, Joni Horine, as another daughter and a life-long friend. Following his retirement at App State in 1994 with the rank of Faculty Emeritus, Larry settled into a happy life of being a grandad to eight kids, tirelessly striving to improve his physical abilities through strength and conditioning, and continuing his service in the community. Larry was on the planning committee for the Boone Greenway Trail and a vocal advocate for its plan and development. He also was one of the early advocates for healthy aging and helped start the High Country Senior Games. Larry fanatically participated in track and field events throughout his life but especially after he retired. Traveling to senior games and Master's Track and Field events all over the world was one of his greatest passions. Larry holds the state record in the shot put (age group 70-74) and finished eighth in the world in shot put, dis-

cus, and javelin in 1995. At age 91 he loyally participated in the High Country Senior games competition and no doubt intended to travel for subsequent events.

Larry is survived by his children Stace E. Horine (Sheila) of Asheville, Mary Sheryl Horine (Stacy) of Boone, and daughter-in-law Joni Horine of Boone. He is also survived by eight adoring grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; a Canal Zone nephew Bill Brooks (Mary Lou) of Huntington Beach, Calif.; and a Canal Zone cousin Barbara Egolf Dedeaux of Pensacola, Fla. He was predeceased by his parents Esther Conrad and Carlton Horine; his wife Mary Ellen Horine; four siblings Carlton, Fern, Conrad, and Emily Horine Brooks; his son Sherwood Horine; and his Canal Zone aunt and uncle Ruth Horine and Leon Egolf.

Patricia Steiner Kearns, 86, passed away on June 16, 2023, with her daughters at her side. Pat was born in the Panama Canal Zone on May 17, 1937.



She graduated from Balboa High School in 1955 and attended Canal Zone Junior College. In 1959, she met and married her husband, James R. Kearns (Jim), who was stationed in Panama with the U.S. Army. Pat then began a life of traveling the world, raising three children, completing her education, and returning to the workforce. After living in Michigan, North Carolina, Northern Virginia and California, the family moved to Germany for their first tour. While her husband was in Vietnam, Pat and the three kids returned to Panama, where she spent time with her family, worked, raised the children, and awaited Jim's return.

A move to Texas was next, and it was at this point Pat attended and graduated from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio, receiving a Bachelor's in Business Administration. She then graduated from Trinity University, also in San Antonio, with a Master's in Health Care Administration, being one of the few females in her graduating class. After an internship at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, the family returned to Germany and three years later moved to Williamsburg. In Virginia, Pat worked at the Fort Eustis, Langley Air Force Base and the Andrews Air Force Base hospitals in Maryland. Her work was primarily in the areas of quality assurance and risk management, fields that she truly enjoyed. She also achieved a Fellowship in the American Academy of Healthcare Administrators.

In between all of this, Pat and Jim raised their three children, instilling in them strong values, helping with homework, getting them to and from school, sports practices and events, especially years of swimming. Pat wanted the kids to continue swimming in Germany, so she signed them up for the local German swim team, even though no one spoke a word of German.

Pat was a member of the Olde Towne Medical Center Board for a number of years and was very active as a member of the Panama Canal Museum Board. Once retired, Pat helped

care for her two local granddaughters after school and in the summer and spent time with the rest of the grandchildren and her children. She was also involved with healthcare consulting and volunteered at the Williamsburg Farmers Market and the front desk at Riverside Doctor's Hospital.

Pat is preceded in death by her husband, James R. Kearns (Jim); her son, James R. Kearns, Jr. (Jimmy); her siblings, Kathleen Bennett, Jerome (Romey) Steiner, and John (Johnny) Steiner, and her cousins (like siblings), Anne Severy and Larry Siegel.

She is survived by her daughters, Colleen Killilea and Annette Couch, both of Williamsburg; her daughter-in-law Diane Kearns; and her eight grandchildren - Brian and Elizabeth Kearns, Megan and Bridget Killilea, Stephanie, Michelle, Alex, and Marianne Couch; her sister, Joanne Robinson; her brother, Allen Steiner (wife Charley), as well as her cousin, Mitzi Beers (husband Bob); and many nieces and nephews.

Pat was a wonderful and loving wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. Family was one of the most important things to her, and she was always willing to help others. She will be greatly missed. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Sylvia Ann Mathews, age 62, passed away on March 23, 2023. Sylvia was born on June 2, 1963, and raised in the Panama Canal Zone, the second youngest of eight siblings.



She moved with her family to Alabama as a young teen. The family eventually made their way to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she attended Sandia High School. Sylvia spent the rest of her life as a New Mexican resident in Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, and Pecos.

She met the love of her life, Danny Newman, along the way and spent the majority of her life by his side. She enjoyed creating a home with Danny, gardening, and caring for her beloved dogs, cats, bunnies, and chickens.

She was also an avid member of AA in her later years. Unfortunately, Sylvia struggled with several ailments that eventually got the best of her. Her 63rd birthday would have been June 2, 2023. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Sylvia is survived by her love, Danny Newman; her daughter, Christine (Lavender) Mathews; and her close friends and neighbors in Pecos. Previously departed include her son William Mathews Jr., her mother Jean (Grabhorn) Dockery, her father Harry Dockery Sr., and four of her siblings.



Dennis McCauley passed away on May 11, 2023, following complications from Parkinson's disease. Family and friends visited him throughout his stay at The Palace Gardens - Assisted Living & Memory Care in Homestead, Florida. Dennis was 73 years old.



Dennis McCauley was born in the Panama Canal Zone on February 20, 1950. He was the second of four children raised by the late Dorothy Jane and Norbert H. McCauley. Dennis attended Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville, Georgia, and earned an Associate degree in Applied Technologies from Vincennes University in Indiana. He grew up exploring the jungles and beaches of Panama and was an avid collector of Canal Zone books and ephemera throughout his lifetime.

He met his former wife, Carol (Wolfe) McCauley, as a student at Vincennes University, and they were married at St. John Church in Vincennes in August 1970. They moved to Northern California a few years later and welcomed their only child, Meghan, in 1984.

Dennis began a 20-year career with United Airlines the following year, starting as an Airframe & Powerplant Mechanic at the San Francisco International Airport. Dennis was passionate about military history and volunteered at several retired Nike Missile sites across the Bay Area. He was an early adopter of microcomputing technology in the late 80's and learned how to build and repair home computers in his spare time. He had an adventurous spirit and was a licensed hang glider and motorcyclist. He enjoyed sightseeing throughout San Francisco and spending summers upstate with his family at R Wild Horse Ranch near Mt. Shasta.

Dennis, Carol, and Meghan relocated to Danville, Indiana, in 1994 when United Airlines opened its Indianapolis Aircraft Maintenance Facility. Dennis took on many notable assignments, including setting up and running the facility's composite shop and autoclave. During the airline industry downturn in 2003, he relocated to Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. A couple of years later, Dennis returned to work in tool repair at Indianapolis Diversified Machining (IDM) and Indiana Standards Laboratory, retiring in 2011. He moved to Homestead, Florida, in 2018 to pursue a more tropical climate, which reminded him of his youth in Panama and to be closer to his sister, Margie Ochstein, and her husband, Harold.

Dennis was a voracious reader, with bookcases filled with paperback novels spanning a wide range of genres, including science fiction, Westerns, and World War II history. He preferred watching old movies and TV Shows, especially "Spaghetti Westerns" and Star Trek. While he was a notoriously picky eater, Dennis was a wonderful cook known for his potato soup and empanada recipes. He loved being outdoors and taking long drives on country roads in his Ford pickup truck. While living in Florida, he enjoyed visiting the Everglades and Biscayne National Park and watching the

planes fly in and out of Homestead Air Reserve Base.

Dennis is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Meghan and Rob Hunt, and his grandchildren, Robby and Eleanor. He is also survived by his brother, Michael "Mickey" (Donita) McCauley, sisters Sheila (Tom) Marshall and Margie (Harold) Ochstein, and several beloved nieces. Dennis was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



John Montanaro, 89, of Silver Spring, Maryland, passed away on February 18, 2023, surrounded by his wife and children.

John was born December 17, 1933, to Italian immigrants Giovanni and Antoniette Montanaro. He grew up in a hardworking and joyous family in Mamaroneck, New York, enjoying homemade spaghetti, sausage and pepper sandwiches, and opera. His sister Emily and brother Joe remained his closest friends all his life.

John served in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1956 and was stationed at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. Thanks to the GI Bill, John would be one of the first in his family to graduate from college, earning a degree in electrical engineering from Ohio State University. John worked much of his career at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab in Laurel, Maryland, retiring in 1995 after more than 30 years of service.

John met the love of his life - Judith Engelke - at a party. Judy was born and raised in the former Canal Zone in Panama, graduating from Balboa High School in 1957. The couple married in 1963 and spent the next 60 years together - raising their children, taking frequent trips to Ocean City and the Blue Ridge Mountains - and traveling across the country to visit with family and friends.

John dearly loved his children, Jim, Paul, and Julie, and delighted in their kindness and accomplishments. He adored his grandchildren Melanie, Katherine, and Natalie -singing with them, jumping waves with them, and watching them grow.

John was an active member of St. Camillus Church - serving on the parish council and finance council for many years, adding his bold, beautiful tenor voice to the church choir. He and his wife, Judy, devoted many years to helping mothers, welcoming children, and strengthening families through the Gabriel Project. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

John passed away from heart complications just shy of his 60th wedding anniversary and 90th birthday. He remained inquisitive, determined, independent, and active until his final days. His family is so grateful for his long and loving life.

John is survived by his wife Judy, his son Jim, his son Paul and wife Amy, and his daughter Julie and husband Zack. He is also survived by his three granddaughters, Melanie, Katherine, and Natalie, and ten nieces and nephews. His family - "La Famiglia" - was the heartbeat of his life.



Douglas L. Morse, 75, passed away peacefully on June 29, 2023 at the Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home in Viborg, South Dakota where he had been living since November 2021.



Douglas (Doug) was born March 18, 1948, in Vermillion, South Dakota to Warren and Fern (Marcotte) Morse. He was third of six children. In 1951, the family moved to the Panama Canal Zone where Doug attended Canal Zone schools and graduated from Balboa High School in 1966. He then joined the apprenticeship program and became a Plumber/Pipe Fitter for the US Navy. Doug remained in the Panama Canal Zone working at Rodman Naval Station from 1968-1974. He relocated to Mira Mar Naval Air Station in San Diego, California from 1974-1988. He and his wife then spent 1988-1991 in Guantanamo Bay Cuba Naval Base where he served as Mechanical Systems Planner/Estimator. From 1991 until his retirement in 2001 they lived in Grand Bay, Alabama and Doug worked as a Quality Assurance Evaluator in Pascagoula Navy Base in Mississippi. Doug had a stroke in 2012 and moved up to Vermillion, South Dakota to be near family.

In 1988, Doug married JoAnn (Reed) Towner. They enjoyed watching motorcycle racing and wrestling and often went to live events in California. Doug's vacations usually brought him back to Vermillion where his parents lived. He made the roundtrip several times from California to South Dakota on his Yamaha XS750XE motorcycle, and later with JoAnn in their Ford camper van. They loved to camp and occasionally drove up to the Sierras.

Doug had many hobbies over his lifetime. Some of his best memories were the 4-wheeler club in Panama. The motto was "if there is a path, we take it". He took up sky diving but had to give it up when he broke his leg. He particularly enjoyed flying in his Dad's Cessna and Navion, traveling from Panama to South Dakota a few times acting as copilot/navigator. Doug was a photographer and took many pictures at the motorcycle races he attended and nature sites on his trips half-way across the country. He won an award for one particular photo of the Old Faithful Geyser at Yellowstone Park.

Doug had a way with pets, dogs and cats alike. They seemed to know he was a softy when it came to animals. His favorites pets were Rosy the Irish Setter, Princess the part-Birman cat, and Zeke the mutt.

He is preceded in death by his parents, wife JoAnn in 2008, and brother Robert in 1999.

Survivors are brothers, Richard (Suzanna Kotalik) of El Paso, Texas; Charles of Slidell, Louisiana; sisters, Janelle (Pat) Kribell of Irene, South Dakota, and Adrienne (David) Whitehead of Vermillion South Dakota; two step-sons and several step-grandchildren; many nieces/nephews and grand nieces/nephews.



James Hugh Nichols, Jr., 75, of Dacusville Community in Easley, South Carolina, passed away on August 18, 2023, after an unexpected, severe heart attack.

The loving son of James Hugh Nichols and Beatrice Busby Nichols, deceased, Jim treasured his upbringing in the Panama Canal Zone. He was a member of the Balboa High School Class of 1966. In Jim's senior year, he was Battalion Commander in the ROTC program and the National Honor Society. Jim was respected and loved for his kindness, integrity, wit, humility, and good looks.

He was a faithful, loving husband, exemplary father, loving PaPa, loyal friend, and a sacrificial servant of the Lord. Jim married Vivian Jeanette Jameson, and they recently celebrated 51 wonderful years together. From day one, he dated his bride and held her as his priceless jewel. He was the father of three married sons - Scott (Anne), Chris (Courtney), and Travis (Ashley). Grandfather (PaPa) to Jackson, Malin, Amelia, Hanley, Emmaline, Felicity, Kennedy, and Embree. Jim's greatest goal was the salvation of all his family and creating memories with those he loved. He wanted nothing but the best for his sons, daughters-in-love, and grandchildren. He prayed for each of them and their salvation daily.

Jim was a proud graduate of The Citadel and faithfully served as an officer in the United States Army. He went on to receive his MBA from Memphis State University and then began his career with AT&T. Jim and Vivian lived in multiple locations from the Southeast to the Northeast until settling in the Greater Houston Area, Kingwood, and Atascocita for 31 years, where they established great friendships and poured their lives into a variety of ministries within their church. Jim retired from AT&T after 34.5 years of service. He was always emphatic about the ½! Jim and Vivian moved to the Dacusville Community, Easley, S.C., a few years after retirement in 2019. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Jim lived a righteous life before the Lord. He was full of love, humble, self-controlled, kind, full of integrity, wise, and the family's spiritual leader. Jim had a deep roaring laugh and a great sense of humor. He had a type A personality and had a plan for the plan for the plan. Jim always set to aim high and to do all things well. If Jim said he would do something, you had his word, and he'd always go above and beyond.



Victor Damien Oliver, 53, of Mims, Fla., passed away on June 13, 2023. He was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and was raised in the former Canal Zone, Panama. He graduated from Balboa High School with the class of 1988. Among the many accomplishments Damien achieved were his graduations from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Government as well as obtaining

his Master of Science in Global Leadership from the University of San Diego. At the age of 21, Damien enlisted in the US Navy. He valued this service highly and attained the rank of Lieutenant Commander. If you are interested in reading about his ventures with the Navy, let us know - we hope you have a day or two! Talking about Damien's accomplishments does not stop there.

After his retirement from the US Navy in 2012, he continued to experience many different career paths using his never-ending knowledge - the most recent as Senior Acquisition Analyst at Patrick Space Force Base, Fla.

Damien is survived by his wife, Tanya, and five children, Victoria (Sean) Austin, Arman, Maia, Chance, and Ian; and two grandchildren, Emerson and Asher. He is also survived by his mother, Jeanette Morales Keepers, his father, Victor Oliver, and his birth father, James Pumpelly. He is survived by siblings Adrienne (Randy) Oliver-Kuzniakowski, Kendra, Kyle, Lisa, David and Kasi, and multiple other loving relatives. Damien is predeceased by his mother-in-law, Carma Oliver.

His loved ones will remember his humor, love of travel, voracious love of reading, and engaging conversations on any topic in either English or Spanish. Damien's children talk fondly about hearing about his experiences in the Navy and growing up in Panama. His children went to him for all life's advice, and he unconditionally shared his knowledge with them. A military service was held honoring the life of Damien Oliver.

Warner Robins, Georgia, in 1998-2004. Throughout his USAF career, he also served on multiple overseas temporary duty and deployment assignments. During John's 20 years of active-duty service, the USAF honored his work with multiple awards, commendations, and medals, including the Air Force Commendation Medal with five separate and additional oak leaf clusters; the Air Force Achievement Medal with two additional oak leaf clusters; the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with three additional oak leaf clusters; the Air Force Good Conduct Medal with six oak leaf clusters; the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with three oak leaf clusters; the National Defense Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster; the Armed Forces Service Medal; the Air Force Overseas Long Tour ribbon; the Air Force Overseas Short Tour ribbon; the Air Force Longevity Award with three oak leaf clusters; the NCO PME with one oak leaf cluster; and his Basic Training Ribbon. John didn't stay retired long.

In April 2004, he was hired into Civil Service at the Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base. Most of this time, John was with the Professional Development Center. In March 2020, he was promoted to Basic Military Training Technician, scheduling all new Airmen for basic military training, where he worked until his untimely death.

Outside of the USAF, John coached Little League baseball and called BINGO at the Elks Lodge and American Legion Post 172 in Warner Robins for many years. He also enjoyed playing poker and loved traveling. John embraced the Zonian culture and lifestyle and truly loved life in the Canal Zone and his Zonian friends. He looked forward to the annual Panama Canal Society reunions and attended as many as his deployments allowed. John loved any Zonian gathering and was known for his empanadas and the empanada-making gatherings with fellow Zonians at Teresa Todhunter Hambrick's house. John was a lifelong fan of the Kansas City Chiefs and Kansas City Royals. His fantasy football team, JP's Wolves, competed fiercely in his fantasy football league. John was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

John was predeceased by his parents, Lena and Claud Planchon; his sister, Tammi Suzanne Planchon Nidiffer; and his brother, Harold William (Bud) Planchon. He is survived by his sister, Toni Lynn Planchon Mott of Nevada, Missouri; nephew, Shane Logan Planchon of Arkansas; nieces Samantha Nidiffer Hale of Alabama, Stephanie Nidiffer, Rachel Mott of Missouri, and Olivia Planchon of Arkansas; and cherished Kathryn Marie Parish (Jeremiah) and daughter, River, of Macon, Georgia. John will be remembered and deeply missed by his Zonian family, his Air Force family, his Warner Robins family, and many more.



John Lee Planchon, 62, passed away peacefully in Warner Robins, Georgia on May 8, 2023. Born in Lebanon, Missouri, on June 14, 1960, John was the second of four children raised by a loving mom and dad, Lena Irene Snotherly and Claud Leonard Planchon.



In 1967, Claud and Lena moved their family to the Panama Canal Zone. John attended Margarita Elementary School in Margarita, and Cristobal Jr./Sr. High School in Coco Solo. After graduating high school in 1978, John attended Canal Zone Jr. College in La Boca. In 1980, he left the Canal Zone to study journalism at the University of Missouri in Kansas City, Missouri. After deciding college life wasn't for him, John left college and worked for an oil

seismograph company in Texas and a delivery company in Columbus, Georgia, before enlisting in the U.S. Air Force (USAF) in January 1984.

John served honorably in the USAF, retiring as a Technical Sergeant in February 2004. During his service, he was stationed around the world at Moody Air Force Base, Valdosta, Georgia; Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, Texas; Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan; Kunsan Air Base, South Korea; his last duty station was Robins Air Force Base,



Anne Magee Severy, 86, passed away on May 20, 2023, in Oceanside, California, after a lengthy illness. She was born at Gorgas Hospital in the Panama Canal Zone on October 30, 1936, to Charles (Mugsy) and Susan Magee.

Anne enjoyed a wonderful childhood in the townships of Balboa and

Gamboa with her beloved siblings, aunts, uncles, and cousins. She was a vivacious and larger-than-life personality and participated in many intramural sports and cheerleading at Balboa High School. She graduated in 1954 and was awarded the "Best Dancer" of her class.

After graduating, she left the Canal Zone and attended business school at Burdett College in Boston, which she completed in 1956. From there, she was off to Washington, D.C., where she landed her dream job working for the State Department. Anne was interested in foreign affairs and also wanted to travel the world. At twenty-one, she was eligible to join the Diplomatic Service, and her first assignment was two years in New Delhi, India. Following that, she went to Madrid, Spain, for an additional three years. Anne traveled through Europe, India, and parts of Asia during her time overseas.

When Anne returned from her assignment in Spain, she was assigned to the Latin American Affairs section of the State Department. She worked in the Kennedy Administration as Assistant to the Special Coordinator of Cuban Affairs.

In 1963, she married William (Bill) Severy, an Embassy Marine whom she had met in New Delhi, India. They moved to Yakima, Washington, where two of their three children, Heather and Suzanne, were born. From there, they went to Connecticut for a few years and welcomed their third child, Allen.

In 1971, Bill was stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif. They settled in nearby Oceanside, Calif., where they raised their three children. When Bill became medically retired in 1975, Anne went back to work and took a position at Marine Corps Base Navy Medical Center in Camp Pendleton. She worked there for five years in various positions before becoming the Administrative Assistant to the Commanding Officer of Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton. She served seven Commanding Officers over sixteen years and then spent another four years as a Public Affairs Officer.

After her retirement, Anne focused on serving her faith community. She was an active volunteer at Mission San Luis Rey Catholic Church, where she was a Eucharistic Minister, a member of small faith groups, and served on multiple committees. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

She was predeceased by her husband, Bill; her sister, Peggy Magee; and her brother, Charles (Buddy) Magee. She is survived by her children, Heather Severy, Suzanne Severy Westerberg, and Allen Severy, as well as her grandchildren, Hunter Westerberg and Kamryn Severy. She is also survived by her brother, John Magee, and her sister, Susie (Magee) Allen.

Herbert of Huber Heights, Ohio, daughter Deborah L. Zumbado and her partner John Zimmerman of Canton, Ga., stepson Joseph Robles and his wife Beth of Culpeper, Va., and stepdaughter Esther Aronson and her husband Stephen Aronson of Avon, Conn., 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. A proud twenty-year U. S. Marine Corps Officer and decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, Bob was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Navy Commendation Medal with "V," the Presidential Unit Citation, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and several service medals. Retiring from the Marine Corps in 1980, he worked several more years as Head of the Systems Analysis and Training Division of Eagle Technology in Orlando.

He was a 1955 graduate of Balboa High School, in Balboa, Canal Zone, Captain of the Track Team, President of the Lettermen Club, Captain and Company Commander of "A" Company of the school's ROTC Battalion, member of the drama club and Chairman and member of several school activity committees. In 1960 he graduated from the University of Florida, where he was a Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity member and held offices of Historian and Sergeant at Arms. He represented his fraternity in all intramural athletics and was 60 and 100-yard dash sprint champion for five consecutive years. He was a member of The Third Marine Division Association and The Panama Canal Society of Florida. In 1998 Bob joined five Balboa High School 1955 Classmates and some twenty other former Canal Zonians in the founding of the Panama Canal Museum of Florida to preserve the history of the American Era of the Panama Canal. Bob served as Chairman of exhibits for several years. After twelve years of operating a brick-and-mortar museum in Seminole, Florida, the aging crew turned over the assets and artifacts of the museum to the University of Florida's Smathers Library, where they now thrive as an online virtual museum accessible to the world. The University has recently added a physical museum display section within the library with rotating historic exhibits open to the public.

Bob was an avid golfer, an activity he shared with his best friend and soul mate, his beloved wife, Marguerite. Mostly, Bob was a man with a great big heart full of love for his wife and family, his fellow Marines, his golfing buddies, and his lifelong friends from elementary through high school in the Panama Canal Zone. Marguerite also shared Bob's love for their youthful days. Together, they expressed their love for friends of old by hosting gala class reunions every five years in conjunction with the annual reunion of the Panama Canal Society of Florida. He masterminded the BHS 1955 reunions, and she hosted the BHS 1954 reunions while he emceed both reunions. Often they included the sister classes from the rival Cristobal High School in the Canal Zone. They were the dynamic duo of class reunions, so said their classmates.

The love, mutual admiration, and total compatibility Bob and Marguerite held for each other was beautiful to behold. When not working in the museum or golfing all over the country, they created memories with their extended family by holding reunions every Thanksgiving week for her family and over Christmas week for Bob's. Summers were spent road-tripping to Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, Ohio, and Connecticut to spend ample time with the children and grandchildren in little league ballparks, tennis venues, parks, and



Lt. Col. **Robert F. Zumbado**, USMC, (86), was born October 9, 1936, in San Jose, Costa Rica, to Roberto J. and Margaret Marie Clark Zumbado.

He was predeceased on May 12, 2019, by the love of his life, Marguerite Helen Neal Zumbado. Bob is survived by daughter Sandra Z. Herbert and her husband Andy

museums.

Bob succumbed to numerous health issues on July 14, 2023, with his children at his side and with the knowledge that God was reuniting him with his beloved wife, Marguerite. The burial will occur at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia, where Marguerite is interred.

Obituary submissions are only accepted from family members. We will accept online Funeral obituaries or newspaper obituaries if family submissions are not received. 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.

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