

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.



Captain **Richard Maurice Andrews**, 93, passed away peacefully at home in Nashville, Tennessee, on September 27, 2024.

Born in Mattoon, Illinois, on March 28, 1931, Dick, as he was known to family and friends, lived an inspiring and distinguished life. He attended The Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y., before moving to the U.S. Navy. He served honorably in the Korean War, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade.

After the war, Dick continued to serve his country as a ship's pilot in the Panama Canal Zone. There, he met his wife, Irene, and his daughters, Elizabeth and Jennifer, were born there.

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He retired in 1980 to focus full-time on his family, settling on Davis Island in Tampa, Fla. A devoted father and husband, Dick spent the following years helping to raise his children and serving as an expert witness in cases of accidents at sea, including the high-profile Skyway Bridge disaster and the Exxon Valdez spill. He was active in the Council of American Master Mariners and enjoyed the meetings and friendship of the members. Dick was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Dick loved to travel and enjoyed taking the family to Europe during the summer. Later in life, Dick and Irene enjoyed Viking riverboat cruises around Europe. Italy was his favorite.

After Irene's passing in 2020, Dick and his beloved cat, Minnie Pearl, relocated to live with Jennifer and Christian in Nashville, Tenn. He spent his days reading the Wall Street Journal cover to cover, completing the Wordle of the day, trading stocks, watching the Tampa Bay Rays, and enjoying home-cooked meals with his family. Dick was blessed to be sharp of mind and active to his final day.

He was preceded in death by his father, Maurice, his mother, Alberta, his brother Ralph, and his wife, Irene. He leaves behind two daughters, Elizabeth Andrews and Jennifer Andrews-DeStefanis, along with her husband, Christian. He was very loved and will never leave our hearts.



Willie Jerry Brannon, Jr., passed away on August 29, 2024, after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's and heart disease. He was a loving husband, father, grandpa, son, and brother during his amazing 90 years of life.

Willie was born January 16,

1934, in Hawkinsville, Ga., to Willie Jerry Brannon and Inez Rebecca Marshall Brannon. At seventeen, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, serving his country in Chattahoochee, France. Upon returning to the States, he was able to land a coveted Civil Service position at Eglin AFB, Florida, putting his Air Force skills and experience to use as a Tabulating Machine Operator and then as an IBM Main Frame Digital Computer Systems Operator.

He met the love of his life, Elvia, and they were married on August 23, 1959, in Beebe, Arkansas. They settled in Niceville, Florida. They built a loving home and had their children, Michael and Myra. Jerry successfully advanced in his career at Eglin starting as a GS-3 and eventually promoting to a GS-11, Supervisory Digital Computer Systems Operator, Section Chief, Mathematical Services Lab, Computer Operations Branch in 1974.

Jerry continued his federal service in the Panama Canal Zone, arriving in October 1974 as a Supervisory Computer Technician of the Data Processing Division of the Panama Canal Company. His wife, Elvia, highly influenced this challenging move to the tropics of the Panama Canal Zone. She wanted to reconnect with her biological father, aunt, and uncle, who helped raise her as a young child, and other relatives in Panama while connecting Myra and Michael with their Panamanian heritage. Taking this leap of faith by relocating overseas was a testament to Jerry's caring and adventurous spirit. Jerry excelled in his field, eventually becoming Chief of the Central Computer Operations Branch, Panama Canal Commission. He was also temporarily appointed Division Chief of the Central Computer Operations Division. After over 30 years of distinguished dedicated federal civil service, Jerry retired in May 1984 at the ripe old age of 49. He and Elvia moved from the Panama Canal Zone to ten acres of the peaceful rolling countryside of Pecan Acres of Bastrop, Texas, where they built their forever home and became Texans for 34 years.

Jerry was a dedicated and proud 32nd Degree Master Mason of Herman Lodge Number 108 of Freeport, Florida, and an active Abusad Temple Shriner International member while in the Panama Canal Zone. He earned his 60-year certificate and pin from the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida in 2023.

Mr. Brannon is preceded in death by his father and mother; five brothers, Charles Brannon, Lewis Brannon, Ronnie Brannon, Ted Brannon, and Dwight Brannon; sister, Ann Brannon Tuttle; as well as his loving wife, Elvia (Tweedy) Brannon and his son Michael Jerry Brannon.

Mr. Brannon is survived by his daughter, Myra Ann Brannon Grimison, son-in-law Patrick Grimison, grandsons Jonathan Brannon, and Brandon Grimison, granddaughters Kristin Brannon and Chelsea Grimison, and great-granddaughter twins Lena and Kennedy Brannon.



Linda (Coor) DesLondes, 84 years of age, passed peacefully on August 21, 2024, at Oviedo Medical Center. She was with family and is now in the hands of the Lord enjoying the best part of life.

Linda was born August 26, 1940, in Jackson, Mississippi to the late Harry and Bobby Coor. She was the oldest of four children, one preceded her in

death. Linda graduated in 1958 from Central High School where she was elected Most Beautiful in her graduating class.

Linda is survived by her husband James L. DesLondes (Jim), her children, Lisa (DesLondes) Rambo, Tom Anderson, Damon DesLondes, and Jim J. DesLondes, sisters Sybil (Coor) Edwards, and Babs (Coor) Shook, cousins, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Linda came to the Canal Zone (CZ) in 1964. Linda married Jim, in 1970. While Linda lived in Margarita, she quickly adopted the CZ culture. Linda was cast in two plays in the Little Theater. Linda became a golfer at the Brazos Brook Golf Club. Linda and Jim moved to the Pacific side in 1970. Linda then attended the Canal Zone College where she got involved in art and photography under the tutelage of Al Sprague. Jim and Linda purchased a 32-foot boat and used it to run a charter fishing and diving business.

When early retirement was offered, Jim retired and they returned to the United States and lived in Mount Dora, Florida. Jim became the Head Golf professional at the Bella Vista Golf and Yacht Club, in Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida. Linda and Lisa helped him operate the Pro Shop and golf tournament activities. After two years at this club, Jim and Linda felt it was time to enjoy being retired so they bought a motor home and toured the USA for five years. They then bought a home in Sun City Center and enjoyed life in Central Florida. In 2019 Linda had a bad stroke and was unable to continue her full life. Kelly Fenton and Mike Coffey two Zonians helped sell their home that allowed them to live in Senior homes until Linda went to be with Jesus.

Linda was a devoted wife, mother, sister, mother-in-law, and friend and lived her life in the fruit of the spirit. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Florence Ann Barbour Moore, age 79, and **Henry (Hank) Bowen Moore, Jr.**, age 84, died peacefully in St. Petersburg, Fla., on September 20, 2024,

and September 30, 2024, respectively, after short hospital stays.

They are survived by their daughter Betty Trascritti (Dominick) and granddaughters Elizabeth Trascritti (Andrew), Mary-Catherine Trascritti, and Helen Trascritti-Worm (Matt). Florence is also survived by her two first

cousins, Harry Klumpp and Charles Klumpp. Hank is survived by a sister, Nancy Henry (Charlie), niece, Helen Emery, and great-nephew, Michael Emery, and many close cousins.

Florence was born in the Panama Canal Zone on December 8, 1944, to John Anthony Barbour and Dorothy Cecilia Klumpp. She graduated from Balboa High School in 1963 and the University of Tampa with a degree in elementary education in 1967.

Hank was born on June 30, 1940, in Tampa, Fla., to Henry Bowen Moore, Sr. and Frances Helen Arnold. He graduated from H. B. Plant High School in 1958 and the University of Tampa in 1964 with a degree in Mathematics. Henry continued his education at the University of South Florida, receiving a Masters in Educational Leadership.

They met in college and were married on June 11, 1966, at Bayshore Methodist Church in south Tampa. They were both lifelong educators, with Florence as an elementary school teacher at Lanier Elementary School for her entire career and Henry as a math teacher at Madison Junior H.S., Chamberlain H.S., and St. Petersburg Community College. He went on to become an assistant Principal working at Gibbs H.S. and Countryside H.S.

Florence enjoyed reading, watching football (Notre Dame, Florida State, and the Buccaneers were her favorites!), needlework, traveling, and spending time with family. She was also a proud member of the Panama Canal Society.

Henry was passionate about sailing and race management and spent much time at Davis Island Yacht Club, where he became a member in 1973. He was a sailor, race committee member, protest committee member, and Senior Judge for U.S. Sailing. He attended the 1996 Atlanta Olympics as a member of the sailing race committee.

Their favorite pastime they did together, however, was traveling. They went on many cruises, European trips, and a month-long adventure out west, driving across many states and seeing all the great U.S. Landmarks. They loved animals and were happy spending time with their little dog, Pumpkin, and numerous cats.



William (Bill) Carl Snider died in Edmonds, Washington, on September 13, 2024.

Bill was born on May 10, 1967, at Coco Solo Hospital in the Panama Canal Zone. He grew up in the Panama Canal Zone and moved to Poulsbo, Wash., during his first year of high school. He attended North Kitsap High School. During his senior year, he suffered a traumatic brain injury, which left him with lifelong, profound physical and mental disabilities. Bill was the only sibling who didn't graduate from CHS.

Bill moved to California in 1985 for continued extensive rehabilitation and went on to live a semi-independent life. Bill made many friends everywhere he went. Despite his disabilities, Bill remained a positive person with deep faith.

He was witty, always quick with jokes or compliments, and saw goodness in others.

Bill is survived by his mother, Kathleen (Wenzl) Snider, Bremerton, Washington; his siblings and their spouses, Mike (Joan) Snider, Wichita, Kansas; Patty (Ken) Morgan, Topeka, Kansas; Beth Hutchinson, Topeka, Kansas; Jim Snider, Bremerton, Wash.; Tom (Evelyn) Snider, Fox Island, Wash.; and Theresa (Tim) Herring, Silverdale, Wash. Bill also leaves behind 25 nieces and nephews. Bill was predeceased by his father, Lee Snider.

Bonnie Irene Peters Wharry died on October 9, 2024, after a series of debilitating strokes.

Bonnie was born on November 24, 1937, in Fairplay, Colorado to Lawrence and Leona Peters. She grew up mainly around Denver until she moved with her mom to Seibert, Colorado, following her parents' divorce. She graduated from Seibert High School in 1955 and took a job teaching on a Native American reservation in California, where she ultimately met Richard Wharry of Wichita, Kansas. They were married on August 30, 1959, in Colorado.

The couple promptly moved to Panama and the Canal Zone, where Richard worked in construction and later for the Panama Canal Company. Together, they raised five children and finally left Panama in 2011, where they moved to Pierce City, Mo.

Following Richard's death in 2012, she lived in Peirce City until 2024, when she moved in with her son in Parthenon, Ark.

Bonnie had a bachelor's degree from Florida State University and had worked for the US Dept of Defense in Panama until her retirement. Bonnie was a talented musical performer, which included playing both piano and organ and singing. She had numerous other hobbies, including painting, sewing, and quilt-making.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her brother, William Cowgill, and her husband, Richard Wharry.

She is survived by her two daughters, Dawn Forbis of Bentonville, Ark., and Irene Wharry of Mesa, Az.; her three sons, Clay Wharry of Parthenon, Ark., Case Wharry of Fayetteville, Ark., and Cally Wharry of St. Petersburg, Fla. In addition, she had six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She will be interred in Wichita, Kansas, beside her husband Richard.



CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR PAUL MORTON



On June 15th, **Lee and Annette Morton** hosted a celebration of life for Lee's brother, **Paul Morton**. Paul passed away on June 4th. A great group of Paul's friends were able to attend. The group included **Richard McArthur, Mark, Jim and Joe Cicero, Jody and Diane de St. Germain, Bruce, Sandy, Curt and Doug Sanders, Lew and Elsmary French, Colin Creel, Jack and JoAnn Morton, John Sousa, Victoria Hall, Charlie Reiss, and Tom and Suzy Gallagher**. It was a lovely afternoon, and everyone enjoyed Zonian-themed food, beverages, and a slide show about Paul's colorful life.

The Morton family also received numerous condolence messages from their extended Zonian family throughout the country. This was very thoughtful and so much appreciated. During Lee's trip to the annual Reunion, which happened to include Paul's BHS Class of '79 Reunion, Lee again received kind words and fun stories about Paul from so many of Paul and Lee's classmates and life-long friends. Thank you to all who are a part of this tight-knit group called Zonians!