

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.



Stephen Michael Byerley was born on November 12, 1958, in Ancon, Panama Canal Zone, the youngest of three children of John D. and Lucile W. Byerley.

Stephen enjoyed growing up in Panama and playing at the beach. The highlight of his teen years was playing football.

Stephen graduated from Balboa High School in 1977. He moved to Texas to continue his education, graduating from the HVAC program at TSTI in Waco.



In 1985, Stephen and Rebecca Soliz married and welcomed their daughter, Annelise Johanna, in 1995.

Stephen always loved the beach, and in 2007, he moved to Hawaii, where he could enjoy the beaches daily.

In his younger years, Stephen was a member of the Balboa Union Church. He joined the Lutheran church in Texas, where he was very active.

In his later years, Stephen began to suffer from failing health and passed away at his home in San Antonio on December 5, 2023.

Stephen is survived by his parents; siblings, Randy and Jennifer (Cliff); daughter, Annelise (Sean); grandson, Colton; niece, Nicole (Kenneth); great-nephew, Kase.

Ruben W. DeJernette passed away Saturday, September, 23, 2023 at his residence in Youngsville, Louisiana. Ruben was born August 31, 1953 in Curundu, Republic of Panama to Woodrow and Elvira Gonzalez DeJernette. Ruben attended Balboa High School 1971, in the Canal Zone. Immediately after graduating from high school, he signed on a six-month commercial tuna vessel, fishing the water off of South America.

As a novice sailor, tradition on initial equator crossing is to receive a shaved head and so it happened! He relocated to the U.S. to attend college at Troy State University in Troy, Ala. and graduated with a B.S. Degree in Marine Biology. He was a member of the Theta Chi Fraternity. After receiving his degree, he backpacked through Europe making many lifelong friends. Ruben enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was stationed in Pensacola, Fla. and San Diego, Ca; if. having been a Lieutenant J. G.

After being discharged from the Navy, he relocated to Louisiana. He worked in the medical field for over 30 years having retired from Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C. Ruben was involved in the community having coached soft-

ball and soccer and was a past member of the Lafayette Soccer Association. He enjoyed bike riding, watching all football and soccer games, attending festivals, and kayaking. Ruben never met a stranger and was loved by all.

Survivors include his wife of 40 years, Deborah Carpenter DeJernette; two daughters, Dominique (Brittany) DeJernette from Lafayette, La. and Adrienne (Matthew) Sonnier from Youngsville, La.; step-daughter, Kelly (Reed) Hess of Covington, La.; four step-grandsons, Cole and Cade MacArthur and Ethan and Elliot Hess; one brother, Woodrow (Janice) DeJernette from the Republic of Panama; sister-in-law, Lisa Carpenter Dorsey; brother-in-law Arthur Rowley; several nieces and nephews; and his beloved basset hound, Aunt Bee.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his in-laws, Herbert and Mae Helen "Chickie" Carpenter; sisters, Mildred DeJernette Rowley and Mary Mattie DeJernette; brothers-in-law, Herbert Carpenter Jr. and Bryan Dorsey and his furry best friend, Otis Campbell. A very special heartfelt thanks to his nephew, Brian Rowley and his wife, Samantha. "Roll Tide" Ruben was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Joseph Francis Dolan II, 73, of Round Rock, Texas, died unexpectedly on October 23, 2023, from heart failure. He was born September 1, 1950, in Gorgas Hospital, Ancon, Panama Canal Zone, to Joseph F. Dolan Sr. and Ann Marie Dolan.



Joe (Joey to family and friends) graduated from Balboa High School in 1968. In 1972, he joined the United States Navy as a Radio Operator and was stationed aboard the *USS Ranger* and *Midway Island*, and he remained in the Navy Reserves until 1977. Upon his honorable discharge from active duty in 1974, he joined the Panama Canal Company as an Electrical Apprentice and was a proud IBEW Local #397 member for three years.

In 1977, Joe left the Canal Zone and moved to New York City to pursue his dream of becoming an FAA Air Traffic Controller at one of the busiest airports in the US at the time, La Guardia. In 1981, after four years on the job, his dream was cut short due to events beyond his control – the strike by PATCO. Undaunted, he moved to Austin, Texas (his parents had retired there upon leaving the Canal Zone) in 1982 to start fresh.

In 1984, while working full-time as a Security Guard to put himself through college, Joe began studying Information

Technology (IT) part-time. In May 1994, he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Sciences from the University of Texas. Over the next 28 years, Joe worked in High Tech at several companies in Austin, including Synthesis, Emerson, and Hart, and prior to retirement in 2022, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Joe was a devout catholic and an avid student of military history. His hobbies included gardening, flying drones, reading, and riding his scooter. He loved to cook, and his favorite dish to prepare was paella, which he always shared with friends and family. He enjoyed spending time with all his nieces and nephews, imparting his wisdom to them, and everyone benefitted from his vast computer knowledge. Joe was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Joe was preceded in death by his father, Joseph Sr., his mother, Ann, and his sister, Eileen Powell. He is survived by four sisters, Katherine (Tim) Mazur of Alvin, Texas, Ginny Dolan of Pompano Beach, Florida, Bridget (Brian) Donovan of Austin, Texas, and Suzanne (Elvin) Smith of Round Rock, Texas; two brothers, Mike Dolan of New Braunfels, Texas, and Paul Dolan of Granbury, Texas; seven nieces and nephews; and numerous other relatives and friends. Joey is deeply missed.



Robert "Bob" Stanley Fishbough, age 88, of Oviedo, Florida, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, October 3, 2023.

Bob was born on July 23, 1935, in Colon, Panama, to Edmund and Ruth Fishbough. Bob's grandfather, Leon S. Fishbough, and great-grandfather, Calvin Fishbough, came to the Canal Zone in 1915 to work as a conductor for the Panama Railroad. He was raised in the Panama Canal Zone on the Atlantic and Pacific sides. Bob attended Balboa Elementary and graduated from Balboa High School in the Canal Zone in 1953. He then attended Canal Zone Junior College and graduated with an Associate of Arts degree in 1955. In July of 1955, as a Naval Reservist, he elected to

serve 24 months of active duty and was assigned to VX-3 Squadron, US Naval Air Station, Atlantic City, N.J.

In 1957, he attended Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, where he was a member of Phi Kappa Tau (ΦKT) Social Fraternity. He graduated from Auburn on August 26, 1960, with a B.S. in Civil Engineering (BSCE). In October of 1960, he went to work with the U.S. Government Geodesy, Intelligence, Mapping, Research and Development Agency (GIMRADA) in its Engineering Research & Development Laboratories at Fort Belvoir, Va. In 1961, he transferred to the Inter-American Geodetic Survey (IAGS) Agency, Ft. Clayton and Curundu, Canal Zone. He went on training assignments to the hinterlands of Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Belize. In 1963, he was permanently assigned to the IAGS Project in Asunción, Paraguay, working throughout the coun-

try and collaborating with the Paraguayan government.

While on home leave to New York City in the summer of 1964, he met his future wife, Rosa Salinas from Texas, working for Pan American Airlines. He married Rosa on January 29, 1965, in Mercedes, Texas. They honeymooned in Acapulco, Mexico, and La Paz, Bolivia, en route back to Asunción, Paraguay. Their first child, Robert Lance, was born in Asunción, Paraguay, in 1966.

In June 1968, he was reassigned from Paraguay to the IAGS Operations Division, Curundu, Canal Zone, with temporary field assignments to Nicaragua, Honduras, and Venezuela. In December of 1969, he transferred to the Panama Canal Company, Engineering Division Surveys Branch at Pedro Miguel. In August 1970, his second son, Daryl Joseph, was born in Panama City, Panama; in 1972, his daughter Yvonne Melisa was born in Panama City, Panama; in 1975, his third son, Craig Stephen, was born in Panama City, Panama. In January 1979, Bob was promoted to Chief of the Surveys Branch, Engineering Division, PCC. Bob was in the Canal Zone for the Carter-Torrijos Treaty on September 30, 1979/October 1, 1979, and considered it one of the most dramatic experiences.

From 1980 to retirement, he enjoyed various family activities in and out of school throughout the new Panama Canal area: sports, boating, fishing, etc., at Gatun Lake and the Pacific Ocean and the beach house at Coronado Beach. After 38 years and 10 months of federal service with the U.S. Navy, Department of Defense, Corps of Engineers, and the Panama Canal Company, he officially retired on July 31, 1997. After retiring, he moved to Oviedo, Florida, with his wife Rosa, where they enjoyed a busy retired life. You could find Bob in the front or back yard climbing the ladder, trimming his trees. He enjoyed telling stories of his Navy days at Auburn, IAGS, and in the Canal Zone. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Rosa; children Bobby L Fishbough, Daryl J Fishbough, Yvonne M (Fishbough) Mouser, and Craig S Fishbough; grandchildren, Reyna and Sarah Mouser; Drew and Dylan Fishbough; Alex, Landon and Emery Fishbough; Lily, Macy, Lance and Abby Fishbough; his brother Calvin Fishbough and family; cousins Sandy Hayden, Micki MacDonald, Buddy Tester, and Betty Jane Schantz. Bob was interred at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Mims, Fla., on November 3, 2023.



Mabelle (Mickey) Walker Fitzgerald, our dear Mom, Sister,



Aunt, Grandma, and Friend, passed away unexpectedly and much too soon. Anyone who had the pleasure of knowing Mickey would agree she was the most vibrant, kind, gracious woman ever. She shared her beautiful smile with everyone she encountered. Mickey never had an unkind word to say about anyone. She always found the good in people, even if she had to look pretty deep. She embraced everyone she met.

Born to George and Mayno Walker, Mickey's wonderful



life began in Los Angeles, California, on January 6th, 1942. Mickey's family left California to return to the Panama Canal Zone in 1948, where she grew up in Cocoli. In Cocoli, Mickey developed many lifelong friendships and a love of horses.

After graduating from Balboa High School in 1959, Mickey Walker attended Potomac State College in Keyser, West Virginia, where she met and married Martin Francis Fitzgerald and started a family. Martin's military career moved the family throughout the US to Heidelberg, Germany, her most beloved duty station. During Martin's Vietnam tours, Mickey and her children (Frank, Kathleen, and Patrick) returned to the Canal Zone to be with her family and friends. The Fitzgeralds left the Canal Zone in 1973 and settled in New Smyrna Beach, Fla. Mickey stayed busy working full-time, raising her family, and welcoming each new friend the kids brought home from school. She hauled many kids to various sports and band activities, piling them into the Ford Country Squire station wagon. Years passed, and the kids and classmates became adults. She was always so flattered to hear her name called out in a store or restaurant, turning to see a kid all grown up remembering "Mrs. Fitzgerald" from their childhood years. Mickey worked for Hogel & Vogt/Bennett Woodward & Associates CPA for 35 years. The co-workers and many clients became her "daytime family" as they watched each other's families grow.

After retirement, she made many new friends while volunteering at the Edgewater United Methodist Food Pantry and with the local TNR program to improve the lives of homeless cats. She was a champion for the underserved, whether it be a person or animal. Mickey's social life was full of activities and friends. She enjoyed traveling with Royal Coach, participating in the Senior Games and exercise groups, and playing Mexican Train with a lovely group of friends.

Mickey worked tirelessly with the Panama Canal Society, in conjunction with the Panama Canal Museum at the University of Florida, to preserve the history and memories of life in the Canal Zone. As head of the "Silent Auction," she enjoyed collecting Panama memorabilia from donors who previously lived in the Canal Zone. She always said this was the best place to see items you could reminisce about, like "old phone books and high school yearbooks," and see old friends coming into the Museum to see what was being offered this year.

Mickey loved traveling to visit family and explore new places throughout the US, Central America, and Europe. Mickey was always planning the next great adventure with the MJC Club (Mickey, Jeanne, Carole) with her beloved sisters. Mom taught us to look for beauty and to be kind, and she taught us to forgive (but not overlook) unkindness. Mom guided us, allowed us to make mistakes, taught us from those mistakes, and helped us decide what to do differently. Mom was our cheerleader, our shoulder to lean on. Mom was always whatever we needed her to be.

Grandma Mickey always made time together memorable. She loved spending the holidays with granddaughter

Cassandra, her husband James, and their big families. She loved the great-grands Camden and Nollyn coming for visits. Camden and Nollyn could always count on a sweet treat, Stavros's pizza, or a fun pool time. It was a big day when they passed Grandma's swim test, giving them access to the pool's deep end!

Grandma loved getting updates from Michael as his career in aviation maintenance progressed. Grandma trusted Michael to get her safely through rough terrain in a Can-Am Defender to reach Patrick's remote cabin site in Talkeetna, Alaska. Eighty-one years old, 4-wheeling through the Alaskan wilderness! Grandma had bonus time with granddaughter Stephanie (and grand-pup Murphy) when Stephanie moved to Florida, living at Grandma's while she pursued her education at Daytona State College. Stephanie and Murphy brought youthful enthusiasm (and tech support!) into Grandma's home. Big Sister Mickey was a most generous, kind soul. As the oldest of the group, Mickey was bossy but in a gentle way. Mickey was the leader, planner, negotiator, and, at times, instigator. Mickey excelled at planning the MJC (Mickey, Jeanne, Carole) adventures. Mickey loved solving logistics and making every moment of each trip count. We are better women because of our sister's love and guidance. We are all suffering a great loss but are so thankful to have had Mom, Mickey, and Grandma as a positive force and guiding light in our lives.

Mickey is preceded in death by her husband Martin, son Frank, parents George and Mayno, and brother Fred. Left to cherish her wonderful memory are daughter Kathleen, son Patrick, and wife Michele; grandchildren Cassandra (James), Stephanie, and Michael; great-grandchildren Camden and Nollyn; sisters Jeanne and Carole; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. A Celebration of Mickey's Wonderful Life was held in New Smyrna Beach and was attended by family and many friends from all aspects of her life.



John Russell Harris, known affectionately by his childhood friends as Johnny, passed away on September 26, 2023, in Dothan, Alabama, after a prolonged illness. Born to his late parents, Gardner and Jean Harris, on November 5, 1952, in the Panama Canal Zone, John's kind, loyal, and steadfast temperament left a lasting impact on all who knew him.



John's life was marked by courage and determination, qualities that were evident when he moved to the United States around 1971 for rehabilitation following a car accident at the age of 17 that left him paralyzed. He graduated from Balboa High School in 1970. Undeterred by his physical limitations, John pursued his education at Hillsborough Community College in Tampa,

Florida, and later earned a degree in Computer Science from Troy University.

His professional journey was as impressive as his personal one. John served the City of Dothan for 27 years, initially as a draftsman and later making significant contributions to the IT Department. A testament to his intelligence and dedication, John played a crucial role in developing the GPS system for Dothan's 911 service. John also inspired others as he served on several boards, including Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center and the State of Alabama Independent Living Council. He retired in 2005, leaving behind a legacy of hard work and commitment.

Despite his physical limitations, John never let life pass him by. He was a skilled wood-turner who took great pleasure in crafting bowls. His creativity also shone through in his design of their family home, a testament to his ability to adapt and overcome any obstacle. A casual man at heart, John's calm demeanor, and even-tempered nature were a beacon of stability for his friends and family. Before his accident, John enjoyed surfing with friends and often lived life on Island Time.

John is survived by his loving wife of 22 years, Valerie White Harris, and his stepdaughters, Darcy (Todd) Mainwaring, Cassie (Jeremy) Kobus, and Andrea Bullard. He was a cherished grandfather to Emery, and Calvin Mainwaring, and Wylie Kobus. John also leaves behind his brothers, Marshall (Tracy) Harris and Michael "Mickey" Harris, along with a nephew, three nieces, and many friends and family members from the Panama Canal Zone. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Described as kind, intelligent, and courageous, John was more than just Valerie's rock; he was a pillar of strength for all who knew him. His calm demeanor and unwavering loyalty were a source of comfort and stability to those around him.

John's life story is a testament to the power of resilience, determination, and unwavering optimism in the face of adversity. His journey is an inspiring reminder that physical limitations do not define us, but how we navigate life's challenges does. John Russell Harris will be deeply missed, but his enduring spirit, kindness, and courage legacy will continue to inspire.



Dr. John Harsany lived a beautiful, full, and rewarding life. John was born in Logan, West Virginia, in a coal mining town near Oak Hill. He was the son of John Harsany, Sr, his namesake, and the mine superintendent. John Harsany, Jr. was influenced by the hardworking people of the coal camp community and his experiences there. The mining camp's Doctor befriended him and took him along on daily rounds, allowing John to witness and participate in lifesaving events that fueled his passion for helping people for his entire life.

Academic scholarships enabled John to attend the University of Alabama where, as a teaching assistant in a chemistry class, he met the beautiful Candace McDonald,

who would become his lifelong best friend, partner, and wife of sixty-two years. Together, they forged a vibrant life, overcoming much adversity and celebrating just as much success.

John graduated from the University of Alabama in 1960 with a B.S. in chemistry and a ROTC commission as a lieutenant in the United States Air Force. He married Candace in 1961 in Mobile and began a three-year service as a clinical lab officer. For two years, they were stationed in Homestead, Florida, during the Cuban missile crisis.

Following his active duty commitment, he pursued a master's degree in biology and was accepted into the University of Alabama at Birmingham Medical School, graduating in 1968.

After his graduation, the family of five moved to the Panama Canal Zone, where he completed his internship and two years of residency at Gorgas Hospital. There, he studied tropical diseases and taught at the local Junior College. Dr. John finished up his final year of residency at Mobile County General Hospital, where he served as Chief Medical Resident in internal medicine.

John and his family, now a family of six, moved to Hemet, Calif., in 1971, where they would live for the next half-century. In Hemet, John opened a successful private internal medicine practice specializing in geriatrics. Doctor John was a true healer, making house calls and sometimes accepting payment in any form his patients could offer, ranging from eggs to pinball machines.

For many years, Dr. Harsany volunteered with the Flying Doctors of Mercy (LIGA), flying to Mexico several times a year to treat the native people of Sinaloa.

During the second half of his career, due to his personal recovery, he pursued an additional degree in addiction medicine (1987), eventually becoming a fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM). This specialized degree led to Doc serving as Riverside County Substance Abuse Director while also serving on the boards of Double Check Retreat Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Center and various other recovery Homes. He was a longtime member of CSAM X California Society of Addiction Medicine and IDAA - International Doctors in A.A.

Dr. John also continued his commitment to geriatrics, becoming a hospice director, helping to create the hospice program at Living Waters, and serving as the medical director of five different nursing homes. For the last ten years, he taught as an adjunct professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Neuroscience in the School of Medicine at the University of Southern California at Riverside.

John was never bored; he enjoyed a true zest for life and was full of curiosity and enthusiasm. He loved to read both novels and nonfiction. He especially enjoyed the topic of World War II; he and Candace traveled and visited many of the places he studied. After living in Panama, where he discovered many artifacts, he began a lifelong hobby of using the metal detector to treasure hunt. John loved playing and watching games of all kinds. A round of scrabble after a dip in the jacuzzi was a nightly routine for him and Candace.

Dr. John supported his alma mater, the University of Alabama, as an enthusiastic football fan. He attended several bowl games and never missed a game with the family gathered around (but no talking allowed!).

A party was only complete with a culinary contribution from the Doc: pit BBQ or smoked meats were specialties, and he loved to feed anyone in his vicinity.

John also supported the hobbies of those he loved, particularly Candace's photography, ensuring she always had the latest equipment. He was an early adopter of new technology, from video cameras to cars that responded to voice commands to moving from Scrabble to Words with Friends. If it had been invented, he was ready to try it. Driving all around Riverside County for years was never a problem for John as he loved to drive and made it a pleasure by having a high-tech car that made it easy.

John contributed in numerous ways to the community of Hemet. Volunteering to be the Romona Bowl pageant physician for many years. He also supported the Arts, especially the restoration of the local Hemet theater and the Diamond Valley Arts Center.

As a faithful man, John served on the Vestry of his long-time spiritual home, the Church of the Good Shepherd. He and Candace have been devoted members there since 1974, even continuing to zoom into services every Sunday after moving to Mobile several years ago. John was in the Kiwanis Club in Hemet for 40 years. Over the years, John enjoyed golf, league bowling, and spending time at the shooting range. Usually, these were activities that included a close friend or family member.

A later hobby that emerged was John and Candace's love of the music of Jimmy LaFave, who they followed as he toured around the world, becoming both his friend and physician before his death from cancer in 2017. During this time, John also volunteered as the on-site physician during the annual Folk Music Festival and other music festivals, where his expertise in addiction was useful and appreciated.

But above all these accomplishments, the most important thing to John was his family. Dr. John and Candace have five children, ten grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren, who have given them lots of love and happiness. He always made time for each child, grandchild, sibling, and cousin, creating special memories with each individual. Grandpa Doc loved to bestow a special nickname on those he loved based on an observed trait, and these silly names are cherished by all. He took his kids and grandkids river rafting, deep sea fishing, and other special trips. One of the most special attributes John enjoyed was the ability to make just about anything a fun adventure, whether it was taking a family member on hospital rounds or telling a story while you journeyed—even chores could be made into a game. He made everything better.

Over the years, he and Candace created many wonderful events for the family to gather together, including a massive 70th birthday celebration for John in West Virginia where everyone stayed at a river resort together, riding horses, swimming, river rafting, and also touring John's hometown and state on a special family tour bus. In 2019, John mostly retired, and he and Candace packed up and moved back to Mobile. He continued to take calls for hospice and nursing homes until being admitted to the hospital last month. They were blessed to find a wonderful house on Dog River, and he thanked God every day upon waking and every evening while enjoying the beautiful sunsets on their wharf. He was so happy to be living near four of his five children.

The world was graced with his energy and talents for 84 years, particularly as a healer. Dr. John Harsany gave each person he met his full attention and care; his patients and anyone who crossed his path—be it a pauper or a prince—every person was treated with equal respect and kindness. His utmost concern was that he served and provided for his family, which he did in spectacular fashion.

The Doctor loved uplifting quotes and mottos; "Never give up" and "One day at a time" were oft-repeated favorites. He made a difference in so many lives, such that we can only stand in awe and cherish each moment we were lucky enough to enjoy with this great man. His legacy will carry on and continue to influence the world in a positive way. There is no better tribute to a life well-lived.

Dr. Harsany was predeceased by his parents: John Harsany, Lena Ratz Harsany, and sister Lydabeth Harsany.

He is survived by his siblings, Jean Klinghoffer, Gretchen O'Brien, and Fredrick Harsany (Frances). Dr. Harsany is survived by his wife of sixty-two years, Candace McDonald Harsany; his five children: John Scott Harsany (Leslie), Lydia Harsany Host (Jon), Claire Elizabeth Kearney (Jay), Joseph Jason Harsany, Adam Tyler Harsany (Polly). He was Grandpa Doc to his ten grandchildren: Knight Suffich (Samantha), Justin Harsany (Briana), Brandon Harsany (Sosha), Knowles Suffich, Dacey Reese Srour (Zack), Lauren Salinas (Justin), Benjamin Reese, Simon Haggerty, Lizzy Haggerty, and Finn Host.

Also, Grandpa Doc to these ten great-grandchildren: Emery Suffich, Nura Srour, Zaid Srour, Honorah Suffich, Cecilia Harsany, Clark Salinas, O'Connor Suffich, Malik Srour, Parker Harsany, and Archer Harsany. He leaves behind his beloved canine companions: Thunder, Gracie, and Lightning Bolt.



Lucy Gray (Disher) Riddle Jones, 91, of Winston Salem, North Carolina, passed away peacefully on November 1, 2023, at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center after falling in her bedroom. Her family was at her bedside. She was born in Lexington, N.C. on May 4, 1932; the second of three girls born to Sidney Taylor Disher and Mary Isabel Wood.

After graduating from high school, she worked at a dry-cleaning company. She met Clate Melvin Riddle at Bethel Branch Church of Christ in North Wilkesboro, N.C., and were married in June 1955. Their son, Doyle (CHS'74), was born in 1956, and their daughter, Regina (CHS'75), was born in 1957. In 1958, they moved to the Republic of Panama, where Clate worked as an electrician for Bill Rogers. In 1960, they moved to Gamboa, where Clate started his career as an electrician for the Panama Canal Company. Lucy liked playing Bridge and spending time with friends at the Gamboa swimming pool and golf club. Many weekends were spent at their Santa Clara beach house, co-owned with Wally Trout

and, later, Earl Hattaway. She was a Gamboa Women's Club member and den mother for Doyle's Cub Scout troop. In 1972, they moved to Margarita. At the Margarita swimming pool, she got crochet lessons from Hope Hiron. Lucy was a member of the Margarita Women's Club.

Lucy and Clate divorced in 1977, and in 1978, she married Edward Jones, a Social Worker at Coco Solo Hospital. She left Panama in 1984 and lived in Lewisville, N.C., for a few years. She was a part-time caregiver to her late ex-father-in-law. Lucy then moved to Lexington, N.C., to care for her father. After he passed away, she went to work for Belk Department Store at Hanes Mall in Winston Salem, N.C., where she worked for 15 years and formed lifelong friendships. She also reconnected with childhood friends. In February 1999, she returned to Panama to visit her daughter, Regina.

After retiring from Belk, Lucy reconnected with some of her friends from Panama living in Florida, North Carolina, and Virginia via telephone. She received birthday cards with 20 dollar bills in them from Janet Sutherland. Lucy enjoyed calling family and friends on their birthdays and singing Happy Birthday to them. These calls will be missed as much as she will be.

She was a member of the Arcadia Church of Christ. She attended several Panama Canal Society's annual reunions with her family and enjoyed reading the *Canal Record*.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her older sister, Betty, by two weeks, her younger sister, Nellie, and her late husbands, Ed (2002) and Clate (2009). Lucy is survived by her son Doyle (Phyllis) of Winston Salem, N.C.; her daughter Regina of Clemmons, N.C.; and grandson Austin of Winston Salem, N.C.; stepdaughter, Karen Jones-Gabriel (CHS'74) and husband Clifford (CHS'74), and their three children Sarah, David, and Adrienni; and extended family.



Carole Lee, age 83, passed away peacefully on December 19, 2023, in San Diego, California. Carole was born in Panama to Sydney and Inez Lew. She is survived by husband Kim, sons Daryl (Angela) and Derrick (Tisha), four grandchildren: Garret, Lindsey, Cameron and Nicholas and sister Verna Pena.

Carole grew up in the town of Colon, Panama, the oldest of three siblings. Growing up, she worked at a general store and learned the basic business skills she used throughout her career. After graduating from the American high school in the Panama Canal Zone, she headed to California on a scholarship to attend San Diego State University. At SDSU, she earned her bachelor's degree in nursing.

Carole married Kim Lee on July 1, 1962. During their honeymoon, they drove to Washington state so she could take her nursing board exams. Carole then began a long career of nursing in San Diego with Hillside Hospital then Vencor Hospital. Carole excelled and later earned her MBA; she retired as the Director of Nursing in 2001.

In retirement, besides spending time with family, Carole and Kim traveled often, usually on cruises. They visited many places: including China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Egypt, India, United Arab Emirates, Chile, Cape Horn, Brazil and Argentina. She enjoyed trying her luck on regular trips to Las Vegas.



John Hartley Martin, 70, of Austin, Texas, passed away on December 11, 2023, surrounded by his wife, Lilly G. Martin, daughter Frances Ann, stepson Robert Garcia, his wife Jessica, and friend Greg Phea. He is also survived by stepson Billy Garcia and grandson Milo Garcia.



John was born in Panama on March 14, 1953, and graduated from Cristobal High School in 1971. While at Cristobal, John was the ROTC Drill Team Commander and then the Battalion Commander. He was a member of the Drill Team when they traveled to Macon, Georgia, and won first place in the Drill Team competition.

John completed one year at Canal Zone Junior College before his father retired from the Panama Canal Company and moved to the States.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Luis E. Martin and Ana M. Martin, and brothers Louis, Mario, Robert, and Frank.

John was a wonderful, loving husband and father. He was always friendly toward everyone and he will be remembered for his great sounding laugh. He will be missed by all.



Iliia A. Quinones, a cherished resident of Winter Park, Florida, passed away peacefully on December 9, 2023. She leaves a legacy of love, laughter, and a life lived to the fullest. Iliia is survived by two loving siblings, Papo and Nitza; her devoted partner, Richard Solar; her two dedicated sons, Daniel and Pablo Hernandez; and her five adoring grandchildren, Elysa, Kinsley, Kellen, Lana, and

Ailie Hernandez.

Iliia was a beacon of kindness and generosity, dedicating herself to making a positive impact on the world around her. Her commitment to the public and community service was evident through her involvement with Women in Aviation, the YMCA, and the St. Stephen's Catholic Church. During her career, she worked as an airport planner for the FAA. Iliia's unwavering spirit and passion for helping others left an indelible mark on those she served.

A true adventurer at heart, Ilia found joy in exploring the world and immersing herself in different cultures. Her most recent escapades took her through the enchanting landscapes of Europe, creating cherished memories that will forever be held close to the hearts of those who had the privilege of sharing those experiences with her.

On December 18, we came together to celebrate Ilia's remarkable life, share stories, and offer comfort to one another as we mourned the loss of a truly extraordinary soul. Ilia A. Quinones will be deeply missed by all who know her. May she rest in eternal peace, surrounded by the love and warmth she generously shared throughout her remarkable journey. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



James W. Riley Jr., 77, passed away on December 4, 2023, after a long illness. Jim was born on January 24, 1946, in Oelwein, Iowa. At that time, the Rileys departed for Panama to begin a new and different life in the tropics of the Canal Zone.

Throughout Jim's life, he was a gifted baseball pitcher. His skill was noticed when playing catch in the backyard in Los Rios. He continued to play ball on the Little League teams, fastpitch league teams, and eventually the Balboa High School varsity team from 1961-1964. Major league scouts recognized his skill, and after graduating from Balboa High School in 1964, he signed an \$8,500 contract with the St. Louis Cardinals. Little did he know, his teammate at that time was to be Cy

Young award winner Steve Carlton. A freak injury ended his baseball career, and he returned to Panama to work as a boarding officer with the navigation division. Eventually, he became a supervisor of Admeasures with 31 years of government service.

He is survived by his wife, Maritza of Lake Mary, Fla., brother Jeff of Deltona, Fla., two sons, James S. Riley of Charleston, S.C., and Christopher J. Riley of Charlotte, N.C., grandsons Jake and Chase, a granddaughter Sasha, and two cousins Thomas Riley of Forsyth, Mo. and Eddie Riley of College Station, Texas. Jim is preceded in death by his daughter, Traci Kramer, from a previous marriage to Grace Whitney (BHS 1966).



Gerda Annalize (Brenholtz) Smith, 88, passed away peacefully at her home in Glasgow, Virginia, on January 6, 2024, with her daughter and two of her grandchildren at her side. Gerda was on hospice care for a short week following a fall and subsequent hospitalization. Gerda was preceded in death by her hus-

band of twenty-plus years, Zonian Owen Wilmot Smith, and her stepson, Zonian Russell Owen Smith. She is survived by her daughter, Karen Donovan, of Lexington, Va., and Karen's children/grandchildren; step-daughter, Zonian Carol (Smith) Dixon; granddaughter Toby Leigh Rowlinson, and great-grandson Blayne Thomas Rowlinson; step-grandson, Kyle Owen Dixon, and his children, great-grandchildren Miles, Lydia and Sam; daughter-in-law, Zonian Sheila Webb (Smith) Tucker; step-granddaughter, Zonian Jessica Renee (Smith) Snyder; and great-grandchildren Kathleen and William Snyder; and step-grandson, Zonian Owen Michael Smith.

Gerda and Owen were married in 1978, and they moved to the Canal Zone that year for Owen's post-retirement career. They spent several happy years living in Diablo and Margarita before returning to the US in 1982. Gerda was the joy of Owen's life, and they stayed together until his death in 1998. Her love and devotion to Owen will forever be remembered by their families.

Gerda was a talented artist – drawing and painting; she was also an avid knitter and a lover of dachshunds. She will be missed by her extended family and her friends.



Pauline "Susie" Marie Pincus Smith (85) passed away peacefully at home in Clearwater, Florida on Saturday, January 14th, 2024, surrounded by family. She was born on February 28, 1938, at Colon Hospital in Colon, Panama Canal Zone to Alice Stilson Pincus and Arnold Pincus. A family friend gave Pauline the nickname "Susie" and this is what she was known by.



Sue was brought up on the Atlantic Side of Panama. She graduated from Cristobal High School, Class of 1956. During her high school years, she was involved in the National Honor Society, National Arts Society, Drama Club, Thespians, Caribbean Staff co-editor, Dance Committee, Pep Club, Volleyball, Softball, Basketball, and

Bowling. Susie was very popular and loved by all of her peers.

Sue met Gilbert Smith (CHS '52) in her senior year while visiting her classmate, Stan Smith (Gil's brother) at the hospital. Gil and Sue married on July 16, 1960, at Holy Family Church in Margarita. Shortly after, they moved to the Pacific Side of the Panama Canal where Sue became a second-grade teacher at Saint Mary's Parochial School. She raised five children as a loving mother while working part time as a substitute. Every evening we sat down for dinner as a family and watched General Hospital, except during baseball season. After raising her children, Sue returned to full-time teaching at Balboa and Los Rios Elementary Schools. Sue was involved in many activities and was one of the Catholic Daughters.

Sue and Gil retired to Clearwater, Florida in 1991, where they spent their remaining years enjoying life. During her time in Clearwater, she became an avid sports fan supporting the Los Angeles Rams, Tampa Bay Rays and Tampa Bay Lightning. She rarely missed a game and often yelled at the T.V. as any devoted fan would do. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Sue was preceded in death by Gilbert Monroe Smith (husband), Arnold Pincus and Alice Maude Stilson Pincus (parents), Richard Arnold Pincus (brother), and Jared Michael Smith (grandson). Sue leaves behind her five children, Linda Smith Badger (Danny), Larry Smith, Julie Smith McCullough (Drew), Gilbert Smith (Sharon) and David Smith; nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren as well as many lifelong friends.



Patricia Meriwether Sprague, loving wife of Robert Sprague and mother of Drake and Devon, passed away at age seventy-eight on October 18, 2023.

Born and raised in the Panama Canal Zone, the daughter of a Californian father and Costa Rican mother, she spent her early years traveling between Panama, Costa Rica, and the US with her four siblings, visiting relatives and vacationing, and driving the Pan-American Highway and across the US multiple times. She attended Ancon Elementary and Balboa High School, graduating in 1963. She subsequently attended the Canal Zone College, the University of Maryland, and the Universidad de Costa Rica. Before becoming a secondary school teacher, she worked for



the Canal Zone Government, the Central Intelligence Agency, as a realtor on Capitol Hill, and the Department of Defense Dependents School System.

As a school teacher for many years, Patricia was well-liked by her students, many of whom quickly described her as their "favorite teacher." Tender and gentle in spirit, she also saw the potential in others to excel beyond themselves. This applied as much to her students as to her children, with a life of proper and decent living and respect for others core to her beliefs. A lifelong learner and traveler, Patricia resided in numerous countries spanning the globe from Panama to Costa Rica, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Okinawa, and Germany, visiting many other countries from Asia to the Pacific and Europe. When traveling to new places, Patricia always came prepared with a well-researched itinerary of art, cultural, and historic sites she could experience to the fullest. She watched the Olympic Games in Nagano, climbed Mt. Fuji, walked along the Great Wall of China, marveled at the beauty of New Zealand, and rode a camel in Morocco. She was always ready for the next adventure.

In every place she lived, Patricia enjoyed friendships and taking part in opportunities, especially with fellow DODDS

teacher friends, to get together to eat, play games, and share conversation. She instilled an appreciation of all peoples and cultures of the world in her children early in their lives and encouraged positivity and wonder of the world. You could find her planning her next trip, enjoying coffee, reading a good book, and writing letters to friends and loved ones. To her children, Patricia will always be remembered as a consistently loving and nurturing mother concerned for their well-being and their children. Her listening ear, gentle honesty, and unwavering encouragement continue as she lives in our hearts. To her husband, Pat will always be seen as his "right hand" and wise life partner, which he has tragically lost.

Affectionately known as "Gigi" by her four grandchildren, Patricia's legacy as a kind and loving grandmother is indelibly marked forever upon them. In her absence, we have lost a pillar of our family, a God-given gift to whom we could never attribute too much credit for making us who we are. Our beloved Patricia - wife, mother, and "Gigi" - will forever be missed. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Mary Jane Taylor née Sylvestre, the wife of Dale W. Taylor, U. S. Navy, ret. went to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on November 24, 2023, at the age of 88 after a lengthy illness. She is predeceased by her parents, Peggy and Tony Sylvestre, her sister Margaret (Peg married to Capt. Robert Simpson) and her stepdaughter, Sheri Cooper.



MJ was born in the Panama Canal Zone. At age 18, she married K C Smith, the father of her five children. She received her associate's degree while employed at NCACC then transferred to Cedar Crest College to complete a B.A. in Social Work. She then was employed as a caseworker at Northampton County Children and Youth. After receiving her Master's Degree in Social Work from Marywood University, she became a unit supervisor. MJ loved her years of being a social worker. In the late '90s she married Dale Taylor, a former teenage sweetheart and retired, and they had many years of enjoying each other's company and traveling together. Dale became her loving caretaker throughout her illness.

MJ was a lifelong Catholic and a member of St. Anne's Church in Bethlehem. After her Catholic faith, the most important thing to her was being a mother. God blessed M J with five children: Karen C Smith-Kernc (Alan), Linda M. Watsula, R. Anthony Smith (Allison), James R. Sylvestre (Elaine), Jacqueline M. Catalanotto (Sean), and stepson Lance Taylor (Nancy). She also has seven grandchildren: Dana Lipson (Greg), Michael Watsula (Michelle), Dan Watsula (Jess), David Watsula (Kristin), TJ Buchanan (Kasi), Drew Smith (Lauren), Trevor and two step grandchildren, Emily Ashmore and Ryan Cooper, eight great-grandchildren: Kayla, Autumn, Jacob, Luke, Eryn, Wyatt, Cooper, newborn Billie, and three step great-granddaughters: Theresa, Shealyn and Sarah. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Capt. Robert E. "Gene" Tucker Jr., 86, passed away peacefully on December 16, 2023, surrounded by his family. He is survived by his beloved wife Dolly (Hauck) Tucker; children Leslie Tucker, R.E. "Bob" Tucker III, Whitney Hauck Wood, and Stephen Hauck; and grandchildren R.E. "Tucker" Tucker IV, Ryan Tucker, Lt. Cooper Wood, and Emma Wood.

He was born in the Panama Canal Zone to Col. R.E. Tucker and Veronica Waldron Tucker and moved frequently during his childhood to many army postings. One of his favorite residences was Ana Maria, Fla., where he lived with his young siblings. After retirement, he returned yearly with family and friends to enjoy watching sunsets and spend time together. After WWII, they were stationed in Berlin, where he had fond memories and liked to use the German words he had picked up.

Gene was a proud graduate of the US Naval Academy class of 1960. He went on to flight training in Pensacola, Fla. before becoming a test pilot at Pax River, Md. He served most of his career in the Virginia Beach area flying F-14s, then commanding fighter squadrons, serving as Captain of the USS Sylvania supply ship, and lastly the Captain of the USS Coral Sea aircraft carrier.

In Gene's military career, he flew 6,186 hours while making 1,284 carrier arrested landings, (367 at night). During two Vietnam combat deployments, he shot down an enemy Mig and flew 275 combat missions. His combat awards include the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, five individual Air Medals, and four Navy Commendation Medals.

Above all, Gene loved spending time with and entertaining his family and friends. He was the patriarch of his extended family and always made sure to take care of everyone. Burial is planned for Arlington National Cemetery.



Judith Warford Wheeler passed away at 11:50 p.m. on December 23, 2023, when God released Judith from the confines of her earthly vessel. In true Judi fashion, she went on her terms, peacefully, so she wouldn't ruin Christmas for her family. We would have relished another Christmas.

Judi was born on August 22, 1946 in the Canal Zone, Panama. She graduated from Balboa High School in 1964, Canal Zone College with an AA degree in 1966, and from NOVA University with her Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice in 1979.

In 1967, Judi married the love of her life, Jim Wheeler. They celebrated 55 years of marriage before he

passed in April 2022.

In 1987, Judi transferred to Fort Sam Houston in San

Antonio, Texas. Judi worked for the U.S. Army for 37 years, retiring as an investigator for the Inspector General of the U.S. Medical Command. Her most rewarding job for the U.S. Army was the five years she worked as a counselor with the Army Career and Alumni Program advising military personnel as they prepared to transition to civilian life.

Judi enjoyed any moment she could have with her children and grandchildren, beautiful friendships fostered by endless phone calls, texts, emails and letters. She loved traveling with Jim and playing bridge with so many friends over the years. Judi possessed a rare and beautiful gift of being a true and faithful friend to so many.

She is survived by her children, Jeri (Peter) Hsu, Jana (John) Potts, and James (Judy) Wheeler; her eight grandchildren, Jillian Grace, John Joseph, Karis Janac, Joshua James, Zachary James, Jack Cayden, Jameson Cate and Liberty Joy. She is also survived by her brother Jay Warford (BHS 62) and her cousin Terry Warford. She was preceded in death by her parents Jack and Jerry Warford and her husband, James Wheeler III.



Roy Neil Wilson, 89, passed away Thursday, July 27, 2023, at his residence at Floyd 'Tut' Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville, Alabama.

Roy was predeceased by his parents, Neil and Dora Wilson, his brother, James Wilson, his sister-in-law, Cheryl Wilson, and his ex-wife, Joni James.

He is survived by his brother Tom Wilson of Poinciana, Florida, nephew Sean Wilson (son Colin Wilson) of Bellingham, Washington, his son David Neil Wilson (Jean) of Evergreen, Colorado, grandchildren Julianne Wilson (Wesley McAhren) of Salt Lake City, Utah, Kathryn Wilson (Brock Burke) of Phoenix, Arizona, and Ryan Neil Wilson of Evergreen, Colorado, and his son Mark Wilson (Lisa) of New York, N.Y.

Roy was born on April 30, 1934, in Ancon, Canal Zone, Panama, to Neil and Dora Wilson. Neil worked on the Panama Canal and, together with Dora, raised their three sons in Panama.

After Roy graduated from High School in Panama, he journeyed to Colorado to attend the University of Colorado to study engineering. After a brief stint in Boulder, Roy enlisted in the Army in June 1955 and was stationed in Germany through June 1958.

Following an honorable discharge from the Army, Roy returned to the States - initially in Denver, Colorado, where he married Joan (Joni) Kathryn Marshino. After moving to Chicago, Illinois, he began his career with United Air Lines as a systems analyst, where he helped develop United's reservation systems. Traveling between Chicago and Denver, Roy and Joni raised sons David and Mark before settling in Colorado in 1970, where he later finished a business degree from the University of Colorado.

Roy enjoyed golf and other sports, particularly baseball. He was active in company softball and social bowling leagues

and helped coach his sons' football and baseball teams. Additionally, he enjoyed the benefits of traveling as an employee of United.

Roy worked for United for 27 years and retired before moving to Scottsboro, Alabama where he became involved in a number of charities, primarily focusing on providing clothing and shoes for those in need. He was enlightened (and perhaps inspired) by the fact that Scottsboro was the home of the Unclaimed Baggage store, where many airlines today continue to send their lost luggage.

Roy later moved and settled in Huntsville, Alabama, where he continued to serve his communities through volunteer work with various charities. He was also instrumental in providing several shipments of clothing, shoes, books, lotions, medications, soaps, and even soccer balls for a mission in Zimbabwe.

Roy will be laid to rest at Ft. Logan National Cemetery in Denver, Colo. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

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.