

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.



Colonel Francisco "Paco" Alicea, Jr., 63, of Tampa, Fla., passed away on June 10, 2022 at James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in the Intensive Care Unit after a two month battle with stage 4 lymphoma of the small intestine.

Born on July 24th, 1958, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Paco lived his early youth on the island, before moving to Panama and graduating from Balboa High School in 1975. He then moved to St. Louis, Mo., where he earned a Bachelor's degree at the University of Missouri and then embarked on a career-long journey in the U.S Army as an officer. While visiting his family back in Panama, he met his beautiful wife of 40 years, Deysy. Together, they raised two children, Francesca, 33, and Armani, who recently passed at 28 in 2020. As a family, they moved all over the United States as he advanced in his career earning many awards, medals and recognitions along the way. He also accomplished two Masters degrees, one from Shippensburg University and the other from the US Army War College. After 26 years, he eventually retired from the Army in Ft. Sill, Okla., as a Colonel in 2005. He then continued working as a contractor for the government and had recently retired for a second time in Oct. 2021.

He was preceded in death by his parents, SGM Francisco Alicea and Ali Resto; his brother Antonio; and his son Armani. Paco is survived by his wife, Deysy; his daughter Francesca, son-in-law George; siblings Carmen, Zoraida and Linda; daughter-in-law Kelly, and his only grandchild, Gianna Grace Alicea.

Paco was a man of service, and very involved within his community of family, friends, and faith. He financially supported a variety of local and national organizations. He served at St. Stephen Catholic Church in Lithia, Florida as a Eucharistic minister and played an integral role in the Men's Club. He attended several Men's conferences, and often invited others to not only share the word of God, but to also help young individuals learn the true meaning of being men of faith. One of the last volunteer roles he served was as part of a recreation of the Passion of the Christ, on Good Friday.

Paco enjoyed life to the fullest, participating in a variety of hobbies and activities including golf, baseball, softball, bike riding, beach, pool days, music, praying and reading the bible, taking naps while Deysy watched novelas, and many more. Paco was a leader, he was loving, caring, humble, selfless, strong, brave, protective, funny and loyal. He always looked forward to family gatherings and trips, but most importantly, he cherished every moment he was able to spend with his granddaughter Gianna. He will be deeply missed. "It's not what you have at the end of life, it's what you leave behind that matters."



Kimberly Sue Backstrom, aged 69, of Caseyville, Illinois, passed away on August 13, 2024. Born on November 10, 1954, in Spokane, Wash., Kim was a kind-hearted spirit known for her generosity and warm soul. She cherished her family, adored animals, especially her dog Hershey Koru, and found joy in gardening and the outdoors. She also loved to entertain and host friends and family in her home.

Kim graduated with the Balboa High School class of 1972 in the Canal Zone, Panama, and furthered her education at Canal Zone College. Throughout her life, she maintained a strong bond with her family and is survived by her parents, James and Dorthy (Standal) Backstrom of Collinsville, Ill.; her brother, Greg and his wife Rita (Stevenson) Backstrom of St. Louis, Mo; her son, Joseph and his wife Kara (Trucks) Tricomi of Godfrey, Ill.; her niece, Claire (Backstrom) Simmons and her husband Nick; her nephew, Nathan and his wife Julianne (Spataro) Backstrom, and her niece, Grace Backstrom and her partner Logan Phillips. Kim had one granddaughter, Olivia Tricomi. She was preceded in death by her sister, Wendy Backstrom.



Robert Jon Engelke, age 77, passed away so peacefully surrounded by his loving family. He was born on March 9, 1947, to Mary Louise Haines and Robert Alson Engelke, and for the first 18 years, he was raised in the Panama Canal Zone. He graduated in 1965 from Balboa High School. After graduation, he served in the United States Army and was stationed in Tampa, Florida. He attended and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice at the University of South Florida. He had a successful career and retired as a St. Petersburg Police Officer. He loved everything about police work, so he continued to work on a second retirement with the Pinellas/Pasco County State Attorney's Office.

Bob's life was all about family and friends; he had so much pride in being a loving husband, dad, grandBob, uncle, mentor, teacher, and great friend. His four children were everything until he got promoted to "GrandBob." Then, it was all about his grandkids. One of his favorite things to do was to watch

and cheer each of them as they succeeded in school and sports. He loved to play golf, go to the shooting range, play poker or liars dice. He had a passion for cooking and working in the yard. He enjoyed going to lunch with his friends and loved telling stories! Bob loved taking road trips - the long way - with the family. "Mi familia es tu familia" was a quote he often said. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Bob is survived by the love of his life and wife of 52 years, Nellie Lynn (Wood); his four children and spouses, Robert Engelke (Gina Engelke), Angela Engelke, Christopher Engelke, and Jennifer Engelke-Lai (Tony Lai); five grandchildren, Mia Engelke, Robert Engelke, Aliyah Lai, Kai Lai and Lindon Roberts. He is survived by his siblings, Susan Engelke, Margaret Engelke Gallardo, Thomas Engelke, Kathleen Engelke Crowell, sister-in-law, Ann Wood Suescum, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and wonderful friends.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Mary Louise and Robert Alson Engelke; mother and father-in-law, Virginia and James Wood; sister-in-law, Alice Engelke; and many other family members.

Margaret Jeffery Hicks, 87, of Berryhill Manor, Milton, Florida, passed away peacefully on May 22, in Covenant Hospice, Pensacola, Florida.

Margaret was born and raised in Worcester, Mass. She joined the Women's Army Corps (WAC) in 1943, and served at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. There, she met William Hicks. They were married in 1944. He left shortly after for the European front. Margaret joined him in Munich, Germany after the war was over. She continued to serve her country as an intrepid military wife, and mother to two daughters. The family moved to SHAPE headquarters in Paris in 1951, and then to Fort Clayton in the Panama Canal Zone in 1955. After William retired from the Army, the couple continued to live in the former Canal Zone, where they both worked for the Panama Canal Company, retiring ultimately to Arkansas in 1978. For the last 12 years, Margaret has lived in Pace, Florida. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Margaret is survived by her daughters, Karen M. Hicks of Bethlehem, Penn., and Jane Laun of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; and six grandchildren. She will be interred in the Columbarium at Arlington National Cemetery, where her husband was laid to rest in 2001.



Catherine Durland Hoard passed away at her home in Iron Mountain Lake City, Missouri, on May 30, 2024. She was born to Jack and Isabel Hoard on Oct. 2, 1958, at Gorgas Hospital, Balboa, Canal Zone. She was their third child, which they considered the smartest and brightest of their children. However, Cathy was not one to focus on academics; rather, she put

her effort into living simply in the countryside.

As a teenager, she spent most of her spare time caring for her retired racehorse, Romano, at the Curundu riding stables. There, she participated in many horse shows and sometimes-winning ribbons. Later, when the family moved to Fort Clayton, Cathy sold Romano and bought Relámpago at the Albrook Riding Club, which was much closer to their new home. This experience convinced Cathy that a 9-to-5 job was not for her.

When her father retired from IAGS in 1975, Cathy moved with him to Black, Missouri, the same area where her paternal grandmother's family, the Durlands, settled in the 1840s. The horse farm they purchased was nestled adjacent to Mark Twain's National Forest and a tributary of the Black River.

In addition to raising horses, Cathy and her dad cured high-quality lumber in a separate barn, which they sold in St. Louis. Cathy also raised goats and miniature horses. Cathy and her sons' favorite recreational activity was river tubing on the Black River.

When Jack died in 1995, Cathy sold the farm and moved to Iron Mountain Lake City, where she lived in semi-retirement with her son Jason. She surrounded herself at the Iron Mountain property with cats, dogs, and a parrot. She never forgot the wild and fun times the Canal Zone offered her, particularly her Balboa High School years.

Cathy is survived by her two sons, Mikeal and Jason, and siblings, Jose, Corinne, and John.



William Henry "Will" Huffman, also lovingly known as "Willie," passed from this life on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, in Memphis, Tennessee, at the age of 70.

Born on February 18, 1954, in Colón, Panama, to the late Willard Warren and Kathleen Donahue Huffman, Will was shaped by the vibrant and warm tropics of his youth. His early years were filled with sun, sea, and adventure with spearfishing, scuba diving, and flying among his many enjoyments. He also excelled in baseball, basketball, track, and football as an all-sport athlete at Cristobal High School, where he graduated in 1972.

Will attended the University of Central Arkansas, where he played tight end for the UCA Bears football team while earning a bachelor of science degree. A 1979 graduate of the University of Central Arkansas School of Physical Therapy, Will dedicated the next 45 years of his life to serving the Northeast Arkansas community as a physical therapist, first as a partner at East Arkansas Physical Therapy and later with Fenter Physical Therapy. Being a physical therapist wasn't just a career for Will — it was a deep and ful-

filling passion. His hands helped heal countless people, but it was his heart that truly left a mark on those he served.

Outside of his profession, Will found joy in the simple yet profound pleasures of life. An avid duck hunter, fisherman, and golfer, he was never happier than when he was out in nature, surrounded by the world's beauty. His love of the outdoors was matched only by his love for his family, with whom he spent countless days at the lake and the beach. Will was also a master at the grill, and his cooking was a testament to the warmth and love he poured into every gathering. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Will's legacy and love for family live on in his wife and high school sweetheart, Kathy, and their children: Cassie Wenger and husband, Adam; Kara Lovell and husband, Matt; Dr. Laura Huffman; and Stephen Huffman and wife, Laura. Will's joy in life was magnified by his role as "Pops" to his five beloved grandchildren: Jake Fisher and wife, Cierra; Heidi and Harlow Lovell; Maye Wenger; and Lillian Huffman. He is also survived by his sister, Mary Novak, and husband, Gary; brother, Jim Huffman and wife, Joan, as well as numerous nieces and nephews who held a special place in his heart.



Margaret Clare Kienzle passed away unexpectedly in her Boston apartment on May 3, 2024. She was born on February 1, 1957, in Red Bank, New Jersey. Margaret moved with her family to Bowie, Maryland, in 1962 until 1966, when her family moved to Brazos Heights in the Canal Zone in Panama.



She graduated from Cristobal High School in 1975. She was voted "Most Intellectual" in her class and was a National Merit Scholar Finalist. Margaret entered Boston College in the Honors Program in September 1975.

Margaret returned to the Canal Zone in 1978 to work in the Port Captain's Office of the Panama Canal Company. In 1979, Margaret moved to Washington, D.C. where she worked for the American Psychological Association and then the World Bank. After living in Vermont for several years, she returned to Boston, Massachusetts.

Margaret loved cats, reading, and music. Her beloved Tess, a tabby, lived with her for 21 years. Margaret won "Most Books Read" awards at her local libraries from the Canal Zone to Vermont. Endowed with musical talent, she played piano and loved singing, from choral music to singing along with Bob Dylan. Margaret was very proud of the work she did for LEAH (League for Educational Awareness of the Holocaust), editing proceedings and researching the emigration of European Jews to Panama from the Alhambra Decree (1492) onward.



Charles Joseph McGinn, born on June 9, 1927, passed away on August 14, 2024.

Decorated veteran of three wars, adventurer, and free-thinker, Charles (Charlie) McGinn graduated with distinction from West Point, swam the Panama Canal, distinguished himself during the Vietnam War, and instilled in his family the importance of independent thought, hard work, and being true to oneself. Married to Jean McGinn for 70 years, Charlie is survived by Jean, his five children, Randi McGinn, Darcy McGinn, Stacie McGinn, Carlin Rafie and Kerry Jordan, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Charles Joseph McGinn was born June 9, 1927, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Edith Bruck-McGinn and Thomas McGinn. Raised in the Panama Canal Zone, where his father was a machinist, Charlie spent the first ten years of his life in Cristobal, before the family moved to Gatun. In junior high at Cristobal High School, Charlie was team captain in every sport and student council president.

In 1943, when Charlie was 16, the Canal Zone was a raging mining town, as troopships passed through the Canal en route to the Great War. Charlie was shipped off to St. Vincent's Preparatory School, an all-boys school in Philadelphia. Under an accelerated program, Charlie graduated high school at 17.

Charlie returned to the Canal, where he worked in his father's old outfit for a time, before joining the Merchant Marines, the most direct route available to the Pacific theater. He spent Christmas Day in 1945 in Hiroshima, which had been destroyed by The Bomb four months earlier.

When his merchant ship was given to the Japanese at the end of the war, Charlie joined the Army in Yokohama. Smart, respectful, and able to spell and type, young Charlie went from private to staff sergeant in his first year. Charlie, the adventurer, excelled at parachute jump school while in Japan, and he climbed Mt. Fuji, from the base at 4,000 feet to the 12,000-foot summit, in 7 hours.

Upon completing his first year at West Point, Charlie followed in the footsteps of the mid-century explorer and adventurer Richard Halliburton and swam the Panama Canal. Starting at the docks in Cristobal, he swam up the Canal, which was teeming with sharks and barracuda, at 2.5 miles



per hour, often in the dark, passing through the locks and ending at the docks in Gamboa. Among the guests at his celebratory dinner

was young Jean Ann White, an architect student at Rice University. The two would be married four years later.

Upon graduating from West Point in 1953, Charlie joined the Army Air Corps and attended flight school in

Harlingen, Texas. He was one of 3,000 Strategic Air Command (SAC) crewmembers flying the B-47, the only plane at the time able to fly from the U.S. to the U.S.S.R. This was the front line—or tip of the spear—during the Cold War. Every test flight was run as a war mission—crews flew at night, at low levels, hitting two targets with electronic bombings. There were few commercial airlines then, so military flight crews had the night skies to themselves.

The Russians launched Sputnik into orbit, which meant they had ICBMs, and the U.S. had none. SAC responded by putting crews on alert full-time, working up to 100 hours each week. Under “reflex,” crews were stationed on 5-week trips to key strategic regions, like Spain, four times per year. Charlie thrived, receiving one of very few ‘spot’ promotions to Major as a result of developing and implementing processes within his wing that ultimately were adopted throughout SAC. He was sent to Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Base in Montgomery, Alabama.

After completing his master’s degree in aeronautical engineering at UC Boulder, Charlie was assigned to work on the Titan missile program in California. He successfully implemented the Air Force contract to build the Titan 3-B with the Martin Company and Lockheed, two highly competitive contractors. The program hit all development deliverables, without any launch mishaps or contract disputes.

He completed a tour of duty in Vietnam. As a forward air controller, Charlie flew over 150 missions, most at only 2,000 feet (within a rifle shot) over North Vietnam and the Ho Chi Minh trail in a Cessna airplane. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, one of the Air Force’s highest honors, for his “...great courage in the face of considerable visible fire...”.

Despite these accomplishments, he returned from the war a bit disillusioned, believing the U.S. was not in the war to win it. He hated what he thought was an avoidable loss of life. Ten years later, he wrote a book about his experience, “Victory Without War.” Nonetheless, he viewed his Vietnam tour as a great adventure and the highlight of his career. The family moved to Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, New Mexico, where he managed troops testing the latest guidance systems. He retired with 27 years of military service.

Released from military life, Charlie began a period of extraordinary adventures and experimentation. The family moved to Alamogordo, New Mexico, in 1973 and then to Las Cruces, New Mexico, where Charlie started a small business and ran unsuccessfully for state representative. He wrote two other books, two songs, and over 50 articles. He pioneered the ‘podcast,’ hosting a show on a local radio station. He encouraged his wife in her mid-life career as an architect, happily serving as a camp follower as she steadily climbed the government civil service ladder. While in Nebraska, he started Wheat for Poland, a program where U.S. farmers shipped wheat to Polish people struggling with the ravages of drought. He invented “thumb things,” and developed a travel business called “Go Great Circle.” Even well into his 90s, Charlie retained a burning desire to serve a higher purpose than himself.

While home in the Panama Canal Zone for Christmas in

1952, Charlie took the train from Gatun to Gamboa to meet with long-time family friends, Alton and Mattielee White, and their daughter, Jean White, an architect student at Rice University, who was home for the holidays. Always impulsive, he proposed to Jean that night, and she returned to college wearing his ring. The two were married in Houston in June 1954 and have remained married ever since.

Having grown up with three brothers, attended an all-boys high school and West Point, and joined the military, Charlie’s experience with the opposite sex was “somewhat limited,” and his marriage produced four daughters (as well as a son), which “proves God has a sense of humor,” according to Chaz.

Charlie and Jean went to Europe in 1972 with the book “Europe on \$5 a Day” clutched under their arms. The month-long trip cost only \$2,000. Once Jean retired, the pair traveled extensively, including to Istanbul, Egypt, South America, and other exotic locales. In retirement, they made their homes in the Washington D.C. area, Charlotte, North Carolina, and Conway, Arkansas. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Isabel Maria (Williams) Mills

went to be with our Lord unexpectedly and much too soon in March 2024 at the age of 68. She was surrounded by family who loved her dearly and miss her very much. Anyone who had the pleasure of meeting her experienced one of the friendliest personalities. She always seemed to have a big smile and genuine caring for people she met.

Isy was born in Panama City, Republic of Panama, and grew up in the Canal Zone. She graduated from Balboa High School in 1975. Isy met her future husband, Ron, in Curundu Jr. High School when they collided in the hallway during class change, which resulted in her books being scattered on the floor. They

started dating at the beginning of 10th grade at BHS. After graduation, Isy spent her time raising a family and later worked as a Teacher’s Aide in the NAF program of the military preschool system in the Canal Zone.

In late 1998, the family relocated to Dover, Florida, where she went to work at Tampa’s MacDill AFB preschool. From there, she worked as a medical aide and pharmacy tech trainer for Hillsborough County. A medical issue resulted in her early retirement. She then occupied her time with crafts, maintaining the house, and caring for the two family beagles and, later, two dachshunds. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Isy was pre-deceased by her mother, Antonia Simms, and stepfather, Keith Simms. She is survived by her husband, Ron Mills, of 49 years; son Dean and daughter Doré; her father, Frederick Williams; brothers Ernie, Tony, Joe, and Tom; sister Maria; many nieces, nephews, and cousins.



Paul Morton, 62, of McKinney, Texas, passed away on June 4, 2024, with his family by his side. His outlook was amazing while facing many medical challenges for several years. Paul was born in Gorgas Hospital, Ancon, Canal Zone, on October 10, 1961, to parents Jo Ann (Harte) and John B. Morton.



Paul grew up in Corozal and La Boca, Canal Zone. He enjoyed sports, playing baseball with "The Gulf No-Nox team and Little League coached by Lew French. During his high school years, he joined the elite "Balboa Rams" football team. Paul had fun hangin' out with friends at the Ft. Amador Causeway and Balboa Yacht Club, playing pool at the Y.M.C.A., and

spending holidays at the Santa Cara and Coronado beaches in Panama.

Paul moved to Texas upon graduating from Balboa High School in 1979. After successfully completing a refrigeration/air-conditioning course in Austin, he worked in various hotels in Austin, Dallas, and Las Cruces, New Mexico, as Chief Engineer, participating in opening several new hotels. Paul's last employment was with the Holton Garden Inn, Frisco, Texas, in 2018. Paul lived with his parents for the last six years, enjoying special occasions with his family.

Paul was most proud of his three children, Paul John, Jr., Dustin Andrew, and Amanda Kaye, plus two little granddaughters, Jameson and Dylan.

Paul is survived by his parents, three children, and two granddaughters, his brother, Lee, and sister-in-law, Annette. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

"Gone from our sight, but never our memories. Gone from our touch, but never our hearts."



Carlton (Carl) George Opel passed away on June 13, 2023, in Chicago, Illinois, while attending part of his continuing engineering education program. Born on August 13, 1954, in Munich, Germany, Carl spent his early years as an "Army brat," living on military bases across Europe and the United States due to his father's various assignments.



In 1972, Carl attended the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in Lexington, Va., where he earned a BS degree in Civil Engineering. Though his nearsightedness prevented him from attending West Point, VMI proved to be a perfect fit, and Carl was a proud "Rat." While at VMI, he served on the Honor Court, upholding their code of honor: "Cadets do

not lie, cheat, or steal." He went on to earn a Master's degree in Engineering Construction Management from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1982.

Carl's 18-year military career as an Army Ranger and Jumpmaster included service as a combat engineer in Ft. Bragg, N.C.; Korea; Kuwait during Desert Storm; and Panama, where he retired from the service and resided there for over 30 years. After retiring as a major, he worked as a civilian consulting engineer in Iraq from 2003 to 2011. Returning to Panama, he formed his own company, Ancon International, LLC, providing contract construction services to companies both locally and internationally.

Duty and adventure defined Carl's life, but his greatest love was his family. He cherished his wife, Anna (Proback) (BHS '68), and children, the late Patricia, Rick, and Jenilee Szymanski, and his grandchildren, Marianna, Sophia, Elysia, Araceli Szymanski, and Fernando Barbero Szymanski. Known as MAJ Dad and Abuelo, Carl stepped in as a father and grandfather, much as his own stepfather had done. It takes a very special someone to come along and prove that love can be unconditional; Carl was that special someone to many who were fortunate enough to know him.

One of Carl's favorite all-time roles was being Jenilee's marathon coordinator for races in Chicago, NYC, Boston, and London, making sure all arrangements were made and in order. He stayed up late with Sophia on various occasions helping her finish school projects that she had "forgotten," never complaining, and was her dedicated math and algebra tutor.

Besides his wife, Anna, children, and grandchildren, Carl is also survived by his brothers Michael Powell and Christopher Opel, sisters Elizabeth Holmes and Kathryn Dittman and 20 nephews and nieces. A funeral mass was held at St. Mary's on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, officiated by Father John Carney and concelebrated by Father Gregory Gay. Internment was at the Corozal Military Cemetery and was followed by a Celebration of Life at the Balboa Elks Club where a champagne toast in Carl's honor was delivered by Jenilee. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Don W. Ryter, 83, peacefully passed away in October 2023 in Winter Springs, Florida. He was born in March 1940 and lived in Gamboa, the youngest of three. Don was a 1958 Balboa High School Honor graduate who excelled as an all-around leader both on and off the athletic field. His sports were football, basketball, and swimming. In his senior year, Don was voted "Most All Around" with fellow Gamboa resident Jackie (Dunn) Fearon.



He went on to earn a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Rensselaer, where he swam for the Rensselaer team. Don embarked on a career in the space industry after serving four years in the U.S. Air Force.

Don is survived by his wife of 61

years, Joni, and children, Kim, Kerry, and Kevin. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Patricia Elizabeth Schiavo, nee Fuqua, was born on June 3, 1947, in Frankfurt, West Germany, to Capt. Steve M. Fuqua, and Jane Evelyn Fuqua, nee Turpin. She died on July 13, 2024, in Spruce Pine, North Carolina.

Throughout her childhood, she lived in Frankfurt, Germany; Kamakura, Japan; Aberdeen, Maryland; Adairville, Kentucky; and the Canal Zone in the Republic of Panama. After graduating from the Canal Zone's Balboa High School in 1965 and wanting to step out into the world, she joined the U.S. Navy and served in the Washington, D.C. area. Honorably discharged from the Navy in 1968, she continued to work for the Navy in a civilian capacity into the mid-70s.

Patricia and Frank Schiavo were married in 1975. During her marriage, she lived in California, Maine, Iran, and Medford, New York. She and Frank had two sons, Michael and Gregory. Patricia and Frank separated in 1992, and she continued to reside in Medford, New York, where she raised her boys. Patricia worked as a very respected department manager in a branch of the IRS until retirement in 2013. After her retirement, she moved to Bakersville, NC, her final home, where she lived with her sister, Stephanie, and brother-in-law, Alex.

Patricia Elizabeth was as human as the rest of us; she had an indomitable spirit, a generous heart, and a keen sense of humor, was fiercely independent, extremely intelligent, and loved to laugh; she could be moody, sharp-tongued, and her feelings could be easily bruised; she could be piercingly direct, irreverent, nostalgic, vulnerable, kind, and she was so strong.

The greatest joy in her life was her two sons and grandsons. She was always loyal and supportive of her children, mother, and siblings. Her solid love will be missed by us all.

Patsy, as we, her brothers and sisters, called her, was a breast cancer survivor, but the treatment she received in 1992 critically compromised her heart, a condition that impacted her health for the rest of her life. Her last few years were physically difficult, and now we find comfort in knowing she is free of all the pain.

Patricia Elizabeth is survived by her two sons, Michael Schiavo (Kelley) of Waxhaw, N.C., and Gregory (partner Adam Joyce) of Honolulu, Hawaii; two grandsons, Zachary and Nathan Schiavo of Waxhaw, N.C.; three sisters, Stephanie Hinek (Alex) of Bakersville, N.C., Barbara Robertson (David) of Billings, Montana, and Suzanne Fuqua (Jeffrey Robinson) of Petersburg, Alaska; her half-sister; Sam Fuqua (partner Kaity Tammen) of Portland, Oregon; two brothers; Terry Fuqua (Mary Deheck) of Hampstead, N.C.,

and Philip Fuqua of Billings, Montana; along with many nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.



Natalie Marie Selles, 39, of Herndon, Virginia, left us for heaven on May 17, 2024. Born in the Republic of Panama, she was the daughter of Sally Ellen Stuart and Carlos Selles.

Known for her artistic abilities and work ethic, she was a painter and photographer and, in addition, was a manager at Sally's Beauty Supply in Arlington, Virginia. She was known for her love of animals and leaves behind a cat named Prim.

She is survived by her mother, Sally; brother, Jared; her step-dad, Rick; father, Carlos; and her boyfriend, James Brownback.



Charles Arthur (Art) Sherry was born in Turley, Oklahoma, November 7, 1931, to Maurice W. Sherry and Alice Covan Sherry, and passed away January 9, 2024, at Gulfside Hospice, Zephyrhills, Florida. His four children, Karen (Barry Winters), Linda, Arthur (Tamara Matheney), and Mark (Michelle Coon), were able to say their "Good nights, see you in the morning, Dad!" with the hope of it coming true, but, as always, he chose to do things his way and instead decided it was now time to be with his wife, Margie.

Art's father moved his wife and family to Cristobal, Canal Zone, in 1940 after accepting employment with the Canal Zone Post Office, while his mother, Alice, found a job working with the Panama Canal Commissary. At the same time, he and his three siblings, brother Maurice (Corky) and sisters Mary Bea and Barbara, attended the Canal Zone schools.

In 1951, Art graduated from Cristobal High School and received a Panama Canal Apprenticeship for Pipe Fitting. During his apprenticeship, he was drafted into the U. S. Army, where, while stationed at Monmouth Army Base, New Jersey, two unimaginable things happened that changed the course of his future. The first was attending radar school and liking it, making him reconsider his career from plumbing to electronics. The second was a weekend trip to the Atlantic Seashore with a couple of his army buddies, where he met his lifelong love and "One-and-Only" future wife, Marjorie (Margie) Fromel from Hawthorne, N. J. After a yearlong engagement with Art stationed in Japan during part of that time, he returned to New Jersey in May

1956 to be married to Margie. Their honeymoon included moving to the Panama Canal Zone, where Art could continue his apprenticeship program, changing it from pipefitting to electronics.

After the birth of their first child, Karen, and finishing his apprenticeship, they relocated to the Pacific side, where he worked for the Panama Canal Company and the U. S. Navy. While working for the Dept. of the Navy, their second child, Linda, was born, and Art and his high school buddy, Jerry Dare, started a TV Repair Shop in Curundu, Canal Zone. The TV repair shop led to working on other electronic equipment, eventually leading them to closing the TV repair shop and opening an electronics repair shop. Since they were still working for the U.S. government while trying to get their new business up and running, they were advised to decide which job they wanted to continue working for. With some financial help from a few of their friends and with total support from their spouses, they "rolled the dice" and chose to continue with their business venture, opening *Electronico Balboa, S.A.* in Panama City, dedicated to the sale and repair of Motorola products for the country of Panama; and, *Jerart Corporation* in the Curundu PAD Area, responsible for radar repairs on transiting ships and fulfilling Motorola product sales and repairs in the Canal Zone. Later, the partners opened a second *Electronico Balboa, S.A.* office in Colon and a *Jerart Corporation* office in Ft. Gulick to provide service to both sides of the Canal.

While not as passionate or involved as Jerry Dare in youth football, Art helped his partner, Jerry, coach and start the Balboa RAMS youth football team. He also invested in a Mini Electric Go-Cart track, which was all the rave to the young and old, as they had to build and decorate their race cars and race them in weekend rallies for prizes. Art was well known for his passion for fishing and his boat, the "**Mr. Capp**" (named after the British cartoon character Andy Capp). During the weekdays, you could always find him at his boat shed (the one with the big red doors with Andy Capp and his wife, Flo, painted on them) in Diablo putzing around on things for the "*Mr. Capp*" or planning his next fishing trip with his friends and crew: Jerry Winkler, Scotty Clark, Mike Rexroat, Barry Winters, and others.

One of the funniest events that happened to Art and Jerry (who disliked fishing because he got seasick), some of you might remember, was reported in the *Star & Herald* newspaper around 1965. After a good day of fishing on the "*Karen Too*" (his boat before "*Mr. Capp*"), they experienced engine trouble. They were stranded at sea, ironically without radio communications to report where they were or request help! They were finally found bobbing around by another fisherman and towed to the Balboa Yacht Club late in the evening. They did take a lot of ribbing from their friends, but they learned a valuable lesson. Dad never went out on the boat without a marine radio again and always checked in with Margie during the day to let her know how the fishing was going so she could rest at ease and let the other crew members ladies know how they were doing!

Art was predeceased by his wife of 65 years, Margie (in 2021); brother Maurice "Corky" (1980); sisters Mary Bea and Barbara; and his parents.

He is survived by his children: Karen (Barry) Winters

and her two stepchildren, Shannon and Christy); Linda Sherry; Arthur (Tamara Matheney) and their daughter, Victoria and her husband Michael Blackman; Mark (Michelle Coon) and their children Ryan and Justin; sister-in-law Julieta ("Corky"'s wife) and their daughter, Ana Lucia; and, four step-great-grandchildren, nine nieces and nephews, and one great-niece. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Art and Margie will be interred in the American Cemetery in Corozal, Republic of Panama. Thank you, Dad, for relocating your bride (and our mother) to Panama and giving us a Shangri-la to grow up in! We love and miss you both!



Angie Grady Talbott passed away peacefully at her home in Homosassa, Florida, surrounded by her family and closest friends on June 16, 2024. Angie was the daughter of Colonel John and Carol Grady. Born in Fort Benning, Georgia, she lived in Bremerhaven, Germany, and Salzburg, Austria, before moving to the Panama Canal Zone in 1968.

After graduating from Balboa High School, Angie studied art and became an accomplished artist. She created beautiful works of art. She could see worlds of possibility in the smallest of things; a drop of water or the pattern on a leaf held a universe in her eyes. She had an intense sense of humor and was full of wonder and mystery. Her works of art have outlived her to remind us of her exceptional magic; one being the design of the Citrus County, Florida flag and also the illustration of a children's book, *Sam's Search (The Adventures of Sam the Crow)*, written by her cousin, as well as other commercial artworks. Angie met and married Keith Talbott of Curundu, Canal Zone. Together, they raised two beautiful daughters, Jane and Laura, in Pinellas Park, Florida, until they later moved to Homosassa, Florida, where she lived for the rest of her life. She loved and honored God and gave of herself in magnitude.

Angie is preceded in death by her mother, father, and husband, Keith. She is survived by her two daughters, Jane Hernandez and Laura Sanek; sisters Maggie Fielding and Nancy (Peewee) Marchiony; brothers-in-law Arnold (Cito) Talbott, Buddy Fielding, and Pete Marchiony; sons-in-law Jon Sanek and Denis Hernandez; three grandchildren, three nephews, a niece, four great-nephews, six great-nieces, and the many friends who loved her dearly.



Betty Louise Taylor, 87 years old, a longtime resident of Dickinson, Texas, passed away in her home on June 6, 2024. Betty was born on August 4, 1936, to John Fred Flatau and Ivy May (Hylton) Flatau in Panama City, Panama,

where her father owned a photography business that supplied Panama's national postcards. She graduated from Balboa High School in 1954.

After high school, Betty graduated as valedictorian from Canal Zone Junior College. She met her husband of 67 years, Carroll Lynn Taylor, then a Specialist 3rd Class in the US Army, at a church dance. They married in Panama on January 19, 1957, and soon after that, moved to Carroll's home state of Louisiana, where they started their family. Betty continued to share the love of Panama through subsequent summer trips home. They moved to Dickinson in 1966 and joined the Dickinson First United Methodist Church. Family was Betty's vocation in life, and she enjoyed her role as a loving mom and Mimi. Throughout her life, she held many different titles as her children and grandchildren grew: classroom mother, field trip chaperone, team mom, band chaperone, and No. 1 Fan of every sport and activity in which her children and grandchildren participated. Many hours at the baseball field instilled in her a lifelong love of the sport, and she could often be found cheering on her Houston Astros.

She touched many lives in Dickinson, embracing her children's friends and welcoming them into her home. As her children became more independent, Betty worked outside the home, building a Home Interiors business that combined her love of decorating and community. Her circle of friends grew over the years, yet she had the wonderful ability to keep in touch with each of them, even when time and distance kept them apart. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Betty was a loving wife, nurturing mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She is preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Rudy Flatau; her sister-in-law, Judy Taylor Blair; and three grandchildren: Emma Louise, Abigail Marie, and Kirby Michael Taylor.

She leaves behind to cherish her memory, her loving husband and lifelong partner, Carroll; her children: Kevin Andrew Taylor (Diane); Keith Allen Taylor (Gina); Karen Taylor Glowczwski (Alan); her sister, Patsy Flatau Ambrogio; sister-in-law, Marla Hammer Flatau, brothers-in-law, Bill Blair, Butch Taylor (Lyn); grandchildren: Travis Ryman (Kara), and Justin Glowczwski (Ashley Budd), Kara Glowczwski Grimes (Allen), Kyle Taylor, Helen Frierson Taylor, Kristen Taylor, Amanda Taylor Hill (Wesley), Seth Taylor, Angel Shatto, Gabby and Jazmyne Fish; great-grandchildren: Macy Grace and Anna Faith Grimes, Eloise Kirby Taylor; and a large group of extended family and friends.



Michael Armand "Mickey" Wiggins, 80, St. Petersburg, Florida, passed away on July 19, 2024, surrounded by family.

Michael was born on October 18, 1943, in St. Petersburg, Fla., to Margaret "Virginia" (Cashatt) and Walter "Blackie" Wiggins. Michael attended Northeast High School in St. Petersburg. Immediately after high school, he joined the United

States Army. He was a true patriot who resolutely served with the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions. During his tenure in the military, he was deployed to Vietnam, Korea, The Dominican Republic, The Canal Zone, and many state-side assignments. However, he was most proud of his instructing career. He was in charge of the airborne and pathfinder schools, the 7th and 20th Infantry Division, a drill sergeant and black hat instructor at Fort Benning, taught counter-guerrilla warfare in Korea, served as the Senior Army Instructor for JROTC at Balboa High School in Panama, and was a member of the RDJTF at SOCOM on McDill AFB in Tampa, Fla. Michael proudly retired from a 22-year career as a Sgt. Major on May 31, 1982. Telling stories about his time in the military was one of his favorite pastimes.

Michael married his first wife, Judith LeMond Wiggins, in 1962. They had two children, Marion Elizabeth and Michael Armand Jr. The couple divorced in 1976. In 1984, Michael met the love of his life, Bonnie Burke Wiggins. They were married in 1986, and he became a father to her four children, Matthew, Rachele, Hawaii, and Tiffany.

In 1991, Michael went to work for Publix Supermarkets, where he worked for nearly two decades and met some of his closest friends. After retiring from Publix in 2006, he and his wife, Bonnie, spent the remainder of his days side by side. They enjoyed traveling, concerts, and casinos. Michael was a reverent member of Elks Lodge 1224 in St. Petersburg. Michael was an avid Rays fan and rarely missed a game. Michael enjoyed baseball and softball at any level and spent many years as a staple at NWYBBSB, Osceola High School, Northeast High School, and Dixie Hollins High School, where his grandkids played.

Michael never met a stranger and was kind and generous to everyone who knew him. His generosity and sense of humor drew everyone to him. He was a favorite patient at Northside Hospital due to his impact on the staff during his short admission. He had the gift of gab, witty sarcasm, and a heart of gold. He was a beloved soldier, friend, husband, uncle, brother, father, and Pop Pop (his favorite title by far). Michael was a loving father to his six children and the most adored "Pop Pop" to his 15 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Family was Michael's greatest blessing, and having everyone together for a cookout at the family home was one of his favorite activities. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Michael was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Virginia Wiggins, brother Walter "Bullet" Wiggins, sister Glenda Griswald, sister Elaine Cook, brother Charles Wiggins, son Matthew Arango, and grandsons Austin Kremer and Blake Curtis.

He is survived by his wife, Bonnie Burke Wiggins; children Marion Rodriguez (David), Michael Wiggins Jr. (Denise), Rachele Curtis (Josh), Hawaii Grimes-Layner (Chris), Tiffany Kremer (Tom); grandchildren Mario Rodriguez, Miguel Rodriguez, Matthew Casey, Madisson Casey, Joanne Wiggins, Justin Kremer, Prestin Kremer, Destyn Kremer, Braelyn Grimes, Bishop Grimes, Andrew Layner, Jackson Layner, Kai Layner, Joshua Curtis, Riley Curtis; and great-grandchildren Kandace and Kassius Kremer.



Dr. Keith Wrenn passed away peacefully, surrounded by family and friends, on June 12, 2024. He was born in Colón, Panama, to Earl Walton Wrenn and Maxine Elizabeth Luther Wrenn in 1950. Like his late brother, Dr. Christopher J. Wrenn, Dr. Wrenn attended Baylor University. After medical school and internal medicine residency at Emory University, he practiced for a decade as a primary care internist in under-

served communities. Returning to Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Dr. Wrenn discovered his love of teaching, thereafter dedicating his professional life to the practice and teaching of emergency medicine first at Grady Hospital, followed by three years as Associate Director, Division of Emergency Medicine at the University of Rochester School of Medicine in Rochester, N.Y. He then served as Vice-Chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine and Residency Director at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine for 25 years, enjoying a synergistic partnership with Chairman Dr. Corey Slovis. Dr. Wrenn sought to provide the best care for every patient and taught compassionate care with the highest ethical principles to learners of all levels.

Dr. Wrenn is survived by his beloved wife of 45 years, Melissa; children Dr. Amy Wrenn (Dr. Sathya Chinnadurai), Helena and Rosalind; Dr. Jesse Wrenn (Audrey), William, Christopher and Maxine; Henry Wrenn (Valerie Charrel, grandson soon to be born); and Joseph Wrenn (Emily), Adam. Survivors also include long-time friend and "chosen" family member Dr. John M. Robertson of Albuquerque, N.M., and a host of dear friends and colleagues.

Dr. Wrenn's hope was for peace; his motto was kindness. Humor was his style; grandchildren and dogs were his delight. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Phyllis Zemer Wright, 96, passed away on October 12, 2023, at home in Santa Clara, California, where she lived with her son. She was born July 1, 1927, at Cape Cod Hospital in Hyannis, Massachusetts, while her family was on vacation in the States from the Panama Canal Zone. She grew up in Balboa and graduated from Balboa High School in 1945.

Phyllis survived polio when she was seven, which affected her left leg. That did not hold her back, though, and she was a member of Henry Greiser's "The Red, White, and Blue Troupe" swim team. She also represented the March of Dimes and met President Franklin Roosevelt when he visited Panama in the mid-thirties. She developed post-polio syndrome in her mid-eighties, which



returned the polio pain to her affected leg and never left.

After graduating from high school, Phyllis left Panama with her best friend, Norma Johnson, to attend San Jose State College in San Jose, California. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Business and a High School Teaching Credential. She loved to tell the story of their first year at San Jose State when she and Norma were the only ones on their dorm floor not taking "bonehead English" to prepare for college-level English classes. She and Norma remained in California and were best friends until Norma's passing in 2015.

Phyllis married James Wright in 1956 and had two children, Julie and James (Jim). She had a varied career, first as a high school business teacher and later finishing her career as an administrative assistant with various companies in Silicon Valley. She finally retired in her early eighties from the Santa Clara County Medical Center.

Phyllis is survived by her daughter, Julie Wright, of San Jose, Calif., and her son, James Wright, of San Jose, Calif. She is also survived by her niece, Connie Zemer Bumgarner of Auburn, Calif., and nephew John Swenson of Taftville, Conn., three great-nieces, and four great-great nieces and nephews, who all feel very privileged that she was with us for so many years. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Mary Milloy Zemer and William Emmett Zemer, sisters Shirley Swenson and Isabel Lively, brother William Zemer, Jr., step-daughter Debbie Wright LoBue, and ex-husband James Wright.

Phyllis is a third-generation Zonian and Roosevelt Medal descendant. Her grandfather, William Frank Zemer, first came to Panama 1903 as a railroad engineer.



David Terry Zemer passed away July 11, 2023, at Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, Florida, after battling bravely for six weeks fungal and bacterial pneumonia contracted after a chemotherapy treatment for a rare blood cancer, CMML. His three daughters, sister, half-sister, and close friend, Federico, were at his bedside. David lived the last five years, sharing his time between Bygdoy, Norway, and Gulfport, Florida.

David was born at Scott Field, Illinois, on September 20, 1945, where his father was stationed as a U.S. Army Air Forces pilot. In the summer of 1948, his father returned home to Balboa, Canal Zone, bringing his Indiana wife, David, and his new baby sister. His parents separated when he was eight, and his mother remained in the Canal Zone with David and now two younger sisters. His youngest sister died tragically in 1955.

He loved his childhood in Balboa playing in the jungle,

playing in the rain, playing ringolevio at night in the neighborhood, running behind the DDT truck, swimming daily at Balboa pool, converting roller skates to a scooter and racing down San Pablo street, turning at the last moment into a driveway to avoid flying on to Balboa Road; diving for lobster at the favorite spot his father showed him at the end of Ft. Amador; throwing rocks to knock down mangoes; climbing up trees behind the KofC to pick star apples; playing baseball at Fastlich Field as an Ocelot; and most enthusiastically practicing the art of collecting, stealing, hiding and protecting Christmas trees before the "big burn." An avid reader, he always had a book handy for any reading opportunity.

Whenever vacationing in the States, his mother was determined to show her country to her children. They camped in a tent around the U.S. from Florida to Disneyland in California. Traveling with his mother brought extraordinary adventures. Few have lived to see trucks and cars flying to the left and right while driving west into Los Angeles on an eastbound freeway, as his mother experienced her first time seeing and driving on a freeway. Thank goodness for the "Do Not Cross" meridian in the middle. The family also got a special look at his mother's country through her unique way of reading maps and deciding the "straighter" road would be quicker than the recommended more winding road. The USA backroads were never part of their intended itinerary: a real no-one-there ghost town somewhere in Nevada; somewhere on a narrow road in Tennessee, a woman in a long skirt and large bonnet behind a mule plowing a field and in the distance on a front porch overlooking the field, a man rocking in a chair smoking a pipe (a scene straight out of a history book but in real-time); a local general store somewhere with a boardwalk for a sidewalk that sold postage stamps long out of print. David considered that finding a gold mine was well worth all the lost driving time needed to drive back late in the night to continue the journey on the map-recommended winding road. By junior high, David was well into stamp and coin collecting, hobbies introduced, encouraged, and supported by his two great-aunts, Gertrude Milloy and Helen Milloy, who also lived in the Canal Zone. A consummate philatelist, stamp collecting became David's lifelong passion.

Although David's report card grades were not always scholarly, his mother was always his education advocate. Before his senior year, she was called to the Balboa High vice principal's office to ask permission to remove David from his upcoming physics and advanced mathematics classes. She refused. Trying to convince her to approve the change, the vice principal argued that some people were born to dig ditches, and her son was one of them. She replied that when he was digging those ditches, he would have taken physics and advanced math. Perhaps the vice-principal thought he was introducing a new profession to the family, not realizing David's great-grandfather had helped dig the "Big Ditch."

David moved to Baltimore, Maryland, to live with his father for his senior year. He graduated from Baltimore City College, a preparatory high school, but always considered himself a part of the Balboa High School Class of 1963. After

high school, he and his father moved to California, where he attended Santa Ana Junior College and transferred on a swimming scholarship his junior year to the University of Colorado, Boulder. He finished his college career at San Diego State University with a B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering and a M.S. in Mechanical Engineering, Engine Design Technology.

Throughout college, David always worked summers as a California lifeguard at Orange and San Diego County beaches. While making a double rescue, he sustained a back injury, which at the time made him ineligible for the astronaut program, his lifelong goal, causing him to refocus his engineering degree. However, this career change never lessened his love and curiosity for outer space. With the onset of the internet, he was able to always alert his family and friends on upcoming events of all things "outer": rockets, eclipses, comets, and any day or night sky phenomena, allowing them to be well ahead of any newscaster.

After college graduation in 1973, David spent the next year touring Europe in a V.W. van. During that first summer, he met two girls while sewing curtains for his V.W. on a beach in Bygdoy, Norway. They all chatted for a while and exchanged names, Rikke and Hannah. The following summer, after touring Europe and spending the winter in Crete, he began his engineering career working for Messerschmitt in Germany in 1974. A few years later, he returned to Southern California, working for Northrop Corporation. He then started his own consulting company, CAE International, Inc., and returned to Europe, placing engineers from the USA with European companies. This included his own contract, which he signed with Norwegian Contractors.

USA engineers Carl Hennrich and Dr. Richard ('Dick') MacNeal (the brain behind the NASTRAN software developed for the Apollo Program) recommended David, an expert on NASTRAN whose expertise was on utilizing and programming NASTRAN, to Norwegian Contractors. David joined the group of engineers from Norway, Sweden, and the USA utilizing the 'MSC NASTRAN' software developed for the Apollo Project. These engineers created the concrete oil platforms, CONDEEP, for the North Sea ('biggest objects ever moved by man'), which initially did the verification of the structural integrity of the CONDEEPs.

In 1984, David and Jan Christian Anker, a fellow consultant, left Norwegian Contractors and established their own company, ANKER-ZEMER ENGINEERING (A-ZE), with the purpose of selling high-level technical consulting. The company got the distributorship for NASTRAN for the Nordic countries Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden, and A-ZE became the world's leading ANSYS distributor per capita, first and foremost thanks to David's marketing skills combined with his high-level of technical expertise according to his business partner, Jan Christian. The company stayed #1 for some twenty years.

Jan Christian shared his findings in looking through one of David's textbooks regarding 'technical mathematics.' From the start to the last page, the textbook was filled with words underlined, comments like 'not correct, see ...' or 'important in aircraft design,' 'reformulate,' and so on. David's contribution to the company was not all technical, though. Jan Christian noted David also contributed to the

company team with his consistently good mood and humorous comments. He had a very good sense of intelligent humor 'both ways' and would easily swallow teasing remarks when the others went to a restaurant, and David went to a McDonald's as his measure for a country's economy was the price of a Big Mac.

As luck for have it, one night at a club in Oslo, Norway, in the mid-eighties, David again met those same two girls and best friends, Rikke and Hannah, whom he had met on the beach years ago in 1973 on Bygdoy. It had to be fate. He and Rikke began dating, fell in love, married in 1988, and raised their two daughters in Bygdoy, Norway. He was a devoted husband, and his daughters were the lights of his life. Throughout their childhood, the family spent summers in Florida visiting with his mother, at his sister's in California, in addition to visiting friends in Panama. When his wife was diagnosed with breast cancer, he retired from ANKER-ZEMER ENGINEERING (A-ZE) to stay home and care for his family.

He is deeply missed by his daughters Phillipa Zemer of Gulfport, Fla. and Patricia Zemer of St. Petersburg, Fla.; his sister Connie Sue Bumgarner (Darrel) of Auburn, Calif.; three nieces and four great-nieces and nephews; many cousins and very close and dear friends, Federico Brid and wife Marianne of Panama City and Taboga, Panama. He also is survived by his long-lost and now-found daughter, Missy Mandato of Winter Park, Fla., and newly found half-sister, Jayme Rothberg of Palm Harbor, Fla.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Rikke Lange Zemer, in 2017, mother Ruthelma "Terry" Zemer, sister Diane Denise Zemer, and father, William Emmett Zemer, Jr. His ashes are buried next to his wife in Oslo, Norway. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

David is a fourth-generation Zonian and Roosevelt Medal descendant. His great-grandfather, William Frank Zemer, came to Panama in 1903 as a railroad engineer.