

WITH DEEP SORROW



Jane Margaret Holcroft Crouch, wife, loving mother, and grandmother, passed away on May 13, 2025, at age 75. Her husband, Walter Ernest Crouch II, passed ten days later on May 23, 2025.

Jane was born on November 9, 1949, in Washington, D.C., to George and Maybritt Holcroft. She was the youngest of three children, with a sister, Sheila, and a brother, George, both of whom preceded her in death. Jane lived in "Christmas Heights," Curundu, Panama Canal Zone. She attended the Canal Zone schools and graduated from Balboa High School. She was renowned for her exquisite Swedish beauty, a distinctive singing voice, a talent for playing the guitar, and exceptional cooking skills. She liked painting and had a great love for animals, especially horses. Jane's adventurous spirit led her to Boston, Massachusetts, where she lived with her sister, Sheila. Afterward, Jane reunited with her teenage sweetheart, Walter Ernest Crouch II. Walter, a sailor, was stationed in Norfolk, Virginia, and would often visit Jane in Boston on weekend passes. They married in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and Jane returned to Coco Solo, Panama Canal Zone, to await Walter's honorable discharge from the Navy.

Jane and Walter eventually moved to Gamboa, Panama Canal Zone, and together they built their lives raising five boys whom she loved greatly: Harlan Pitzer II (who preceded her in death), Guthrie Travis, Walter Ernest III, Chad Arthur, and Olin Jonsson. She brought gentleness, a love of food, and a love of animals to these five boys. Eventually, they moved to Los Ríos, Panama Canal Zone, and then on to Safety Harbor, Florida. Jane eventually relocated to an assisted living facility in Clearwater, Florida.

Jane is survived by her sons Guthrie, Walter, Chad, and Olin; Guthrie's wife Michele and their children Leslie and Samantha; Chad's wife June and their children Kaitlyn, Kimberly, and Kristen; Olin's children, Sonny, Kathleen, and Rosie; Caroline and Harlan's son Harlan Pitzer III; sisters-in-law Kathleen, Joan, Ruth, Alice Marian, and Anne (the Crouch sisters); and Nancy Holcroft, many nephews and nieces, cousins, friends, family, and tons of loved ones. Jane is greatly missed.

Walter Ernest Crouch II, a devoted husband, loving father, and a man of vast intellect and integrity, passed away on May 23rd, 2025, ten days after his beloved wife, Jane Margaret Holcroft Crouch. Walter was 79 years old.

Born March 3rd, 1946, at Gorgas Hospital in the Panama Canal Zone, Walter was the third of seven



children and the only boy born to Harlan and Georgia Crouch. He attended schools on both the Atlantic and Pacific sides of the Canal Zone Isthmus and graduated from Balboa High School.

In 1966, Walter enlisted in the Navy, spending time in the Mediterranean on the USS "Aldebaran," which was stationed out of Norfolk, Virginia. On weekend passes, Walter would often visit his teenage sweetheart, Jane, in Boston, Massachusetts. After their long relationship, they married in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Jane left the States and lived with Walter's family in Coco Solo, Canal Zone, until Walter was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1970.

Then, he and Jane built their lives in Panama, starting their family in Gamboa, Canal Zone. They were blessed with five sons: Harlan Pitzer II (who preceded Walter and Jane in death), Guthrie Travis, Walter Ernest III, Chad Arthur, and Olin Jonsson.

Walter served with the Canal Zone Water Division and completed an apprenticeship on the steam dredge "Cascadas," ultimately becoming a Chief Engineer on the Dredging Division tugboats. Eventually, the family moved to Los Ríos, Canal Zone, and then to Safety Harbor, Florida, to await Walter's retirement in the Canal Zone. After retiring, Walter started a family exotic wood business, Cocobolo Inc., selling beautiful wood to expert woodworkers. He was an expert woodworker himself.

Walter was very passionate, filled with integrity, patriotic, a profound thinker, and a prolific reader who read many ancient philosophers like Aristotle and was a staunch admirer of Ayn Rand (both her fiction and non-fiction novels). He possessed a brilliant mind and would share his vast knowledge on subjects such as philosophy, the state of America, vitamins, and alternative health practices with his loved ones. He often knew more than many professionals he encountered.

Walter is survived by his sons Guthrie, Walter, Chad, and Olin; Guthrie's wife Michele and their children Leslie and Samantha; Chad's wife June and their children Kaitlyn, Kimberly, and Kristen; Olin's children, Sonny, Kathleen, and Rosie; Caroline and Harlan's son Harlan III; his Crouch sisters, Kathleen, Joan, Ruth, Alice Marian, and Anne; sister-in-law Nancy Holcroft; many nephews and nieces; cousins; an uncle; an aunt; Mason brothers; friends, family, and loved ones. Walter is greatly missed.

Loretta Date passed on Saturday, September 27, 2025.

Loretta was born June 17, 1926, in Detroit, Michigan. As the eldest in her family, she assisted her mother with errands after her father's death when she was just 11 years old. She studied secretarial skills in downtown Detroit, and this became the foundation of her career. She met her husband, Donald Date, in 11th grade. They married on September 15, 1945, when he was on leave from the Navy during World War II. Children Daryl and Alison were born before they moved to Panama in 1958, where they lived for 25 years.

Loretta enjoyed her work as an administrative assistant for the US military at SouthCom in Quarry Heights. While in Panama, Don and Loretta were active members of the Lutheran Church. After leaving Panama, Don and Loretta moved to Huntsville, Alabama. Following Loretta's retirement stateside, they spent a few years in Cross Village, Michigan, and finally settled in Tampa, Florida. Don died peacefully on August 9, 1997.

Loretta continued to be active at Holy Trinity Church and, as a grandmother, to Anna. She volunteered at the Performing Arts Center and loved watching the many musicals. She spent her final years at Bayshore Brookdale Assisted Living in Tampa, which allowed her to have weekly visits from both of her daughters.

Despite having macular degeneration and osteoporosis, she remained active with daily exercise classes and walks. If you couldn't find Loretta, she was out taking a walk.

Loretta was kind, honest, and devoted to the Lord, as well as to her family and friends. Loretta constantly expressed her gratitude for her many blessings. We will miss her cheerful, loving, and supportive energy in our lives. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

John H. Engelke passed away on September 13, 2025, at his home in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, surrounded by love. He was born on July 2, 1941, at Santo Tomas hospital in Republic of Panama to Howard S. and Evelyn D. Engleke. John was raised in the Panama Canal Zone with his three siblings. John graduated from Balboa High School in 1959 and



briefly attended Panama Canal College before enlisting in the US Air Force. After his honorable discharge from the military in 1965, John returned to Panama and joined the Panama Canal Police Force in 1983. He transferred to the Chief Support Branch Division, which he retired from in 1998 after a combined 37 years of service. John married the love of his life, Laurie Anne Will on April 1, 1967, in Margarita, Canal Zone, Panama. Together, they raised three wonderful children, John Richard, Laurie Elizabeth, and Joy Lynne.

John always enjoyed golfing, fishing, bowling, and Monday night Poker with his poker buddies. Most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, whom he loved unconditionally. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

John is survived by his wife of 57 years, Laurie Will Engelke; son, John Engelke; daughters, Laurie Sweeney (Todd) and Joy Humphrey (Aaron); sister, Judy Montanaro; brothers, Bill (Shirley), Louis (Wilma) Engelke; grandchildren, Kaylyn Sweeney (Jylan Hayes), Devon Sweeney (Kylie Wilson), Arynne and Addlyn Humphrey; great grandchildren, Laykyn and Korbyn Sweeney, Isais and Mecca Hayes, Corely and Otto Moorer; extended family, Jordan and Cherish Moorer.



John Robert Gough II, 79, of St. Petersburg, Florida, passed away unexpectedly at home on August 20, 2025. Born in the Republic of Panama in 1946 to John R. Gough Sr. and Kathleen Gough, he was the oldest of two boys. Preceded in death by his brother William Gough (Billy), also a graduate of

Balboa High School. His parents departed the Canal Zone after retirement in 1979. John II graduated from Balboa High School, class of 1964. He lived and worked for the Canal Zone until he retired in 1989.

He was immensely proud of his Canal Zone heritage and identification as a second-generation ZONIAN. His true passion in life, other than his family, was building and riding motorcycles. He was a true expert in the restoration and transformation of a box of junk parts into a showroom-quality build. His favorite bikes were Triumphs, Bushmans, and BSAs.



In the early 1970s, you would see him jetting around on his orange tank Bushman motorbike, which he had built himself.

After retirement and moving to the Tampa Bay Area, he continued to make trips back to Panama. He was fluent in the Spanish language, including the mastery of Bajan/Patois as well. He took full advantage of growing up in both the Canal Zone and the Republic of Panama. His friendship circle included Panamanians and Zonians. He never lost his bond to the paradise he called home. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

He is survived by his wife, Ellen Gough (Douglas), whom he married in 1999; she is a Zonian as well and a graduate of Balboa High School. He is also survived by his four children from two marriages: John R. Gough III (Bridgitte), Linda Gough, Brian Lord, and Christina Constatine (Mike); four grandchildren, Justin Gough, Andrew Gough, Lucas Constatine, and Reese Constatine; and great-granddaughter, Emory Gough.

John was an outstanding father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. All genuinely loved him. Besides his passion for motorbikes, he was a regular on the area golf courses in Florida, Louisiana, and Panama. If you were to ask what his "Super-Power" was, it would have to be his friends. He mastered the art of being a true friend, and his list of friends is longer than one could count. He lived a full life of adventure and love. He was able to grow up and live in paradise (Panama Canal Zone). John was a member of the Panama Canal Society. His greatest passion was his love for God and his newfound faith as a reborn Christian. I know he is in Heaven with Tommy, his family, and friends who have passed.



Jerry L. Hall, age 78, of Sarasota, Florida, passed away on August 24, 2025, following a medical emergency. Born in Montpelier, Vermont, Jerry was the son of Guy U. Hall and Ruth E. (Olsen) Hall. People will remember his parents from the Curundu Photo Shop. He was a graduate of Balboa High School, Class of 1965. Jerry

attended Canal Zone Jr. College and pursued employment with the Panama Canal Company as an Electrician Apprentice. Called to serve his country, Jerry completed 1.5 tours in Vietnam and Panama as a



helicopter pilot. Jerry met his wife, Caroline, in Panama in 1970. After they married, they briefly moved to Florida, but quickly returned home to the Canal Zone. Jerry went on

to enjoy his career as Marine Controller for the Panama Canal Commission until 1999, when the family relocated to Sarasota.

In the Canal Zone, both Jerry and Caroline were well known for their active involvement in productions for the Ancon Theatre Guild, United Way, and Surfside Theatre. He was very proud of his hand-built boat, "Little Chap". He loved photography, traveling to Italy, taking trips to Panama, and being a supportive member of the Gulf Coast Italian Society and the Panama Canal Society.

Jerry was predeceased by his wife, Caroline Lambert Statler Hall (2019), and son, Garrett O. Hall (2005). He is survived by his sister, Sandra Hall-Brown (BHS '71) of Bethlehem, Penn.; nephew, Justin A. Brown and family of Palmerton, Penn.; his partner of five years, Elizabeth (Beth) Rose of Sarasota, and his loving dog, Nove. Nove now reside with Beth.

Jerry and Beth described their relationship as their "Chapter 2". Beth expressed that "Jerry was a kind, gentle, non-judgemental man," and his sister, Sandra, concurs - "Jerry was the best brother one could have. He is, and will always be my ROCK." Spread your wings and fly in the heavens, Jerry. You will always be with us. The world was a better place with you in it. Jerry and Caroline were interred at the Sarasota National Cemetery on October 21, 2025.



Janet (Jan) Alva Kinnier, 93, passed away peacefully in Concord, New Hampshire. She was born October 4, 1931, in Englewood, NJ, to Everett and Mabel Kimmel.

Jan spent her early years in Englewood before moving to the Panama Canal Zone, where she completed high school. In 1952, she married the love of her life, Richard Randolph Kinnier, and together they shared seventy years of marriage until his passing in 2022.

A lifelong learner, Jan graduated from Smith College in 1953. Later in life, she pursued her passion for healthcare, earning her nursing degree from the New Hampshire Technical Institute and the University

of New Hampshire. She found joy in her career as a registered nurse at The Centennial Home in Concord, where she cared deeply for the residents.

Jan and Richard's journey together took them across the globe and the country, with homes in Groton, MA; the Philippine Islands; Virginia; Concord, NH; and Edmonds, WA. In 2022, Jan returned to Concord, where she lived at Havenwood.

Jan is survived by her four children: Wendy (Mike) McCune of Homer, AK; Dave (Bernadette) Kinnier of Concord, NH; Jim (Julie) Kinnier of Spokane, WA; and Jenny Holub of New York, NY. She was the proud grandmother of eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Richard, her daughter-in-love, Linda Kinnier, and her son-in-law, Johannes Holub.

Jan was a woman of energy, creativity, and connection. Wherever she lived, she built lasting friendships and strengthened her community through church, theatre, choir, and volunteer service. She loved hiking, camping, canoeing, gardening, bird watching, reading, puzzling, and photography – interests she shared freely with her family and friends. Her gift for maintaining lifelong connections and documenting her many adventures created a legacy of joy and memories for those around her. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society. Even into her 90s, Jan's curiosity never waned; she was still learning Spanish on Duolingo at age 93.

people, such as by arranging simple piano versions of students' favorite songs, inviting them to a concert, or letting them sit on an organ bench and play a few notes. A champion for organ music, she taught the instrument and was involved in the American Guild of Organists for many years, including serving as dean for the New London County chapter. She spent many happy evenings attending local live performances of music and theater.

Beyond music, Elizabeth had many interests. She enjoyed gardening, cooking, reading, hiking with friends, and playing games, especially Scrabble. She worked many years as a licensed massage therapist. She practiced meditation, even traveling to India for spiritual instruction. She volunteered in CT for a hospice and for New London Homeless Hospitality Center. She also participated in a writer's group at Groton Public Library, where she was inspired to write and self-publish a memoir about her lifelong search for truth and spiritual wholeness. In her last years she found peace with her Christian heritage.

Elizabeth was preceded in death by her parents Jacob and Verna (Peters) Limkemann. She is survived by her children Sonia Srichai (Robert) and Esther Thatcher (Robert), her beloved siblings Will, Ruth, and Eunice and their families, as well as 5 grandchildren: Blake, Fiona, Samantha, Ryan and Simona.



Elizabeth Ann Limkemann, 81, formerly of Mystic, CT, passed away peacefully after a battle with cancer on September 11, 2025 at Mt. Olivet Home in Minneapolis, MN. Born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on July 2, 1944, she grew up in the Panama Canal Zone where she graduated from Cristobal High School in 1962. Elizabeth studied music at the College of Wooster, graduating in 1965. She later honed her organ skills at University of Akron with professor Barbara McGregor, earning a Master of Fine Arts in organ performance. Married to Terry Miller in 1966, they had two daughters.

Elizabeth is fondly remembered for her love of music and community. Involved in church music from an early age, she worked as an organist for several churches. In 2024, she enjoyed a wonderful retirement celebration after 30 years at Saint Patrick Catholic Church in Mystic. Also a talented pianist, she was a beloved piano teacher to children and adults in Ohio, North Carolina and in CT. Elizabeth's approach to teaching was to plant seeds of interest in young



Stacia "Tess" (Walsh) Morgan of Paradise Valley Estates in Fairfield, California, died October 1, 2025, after a long illness. She was born in Whittier, California, and was the beloved wife and soulmate of Paul ("Buddy") Morgan. She spent 20 years traveling with him as an Army chaplain's wife while he was stationed in Korea, Germany, and

throughout the United States. After earning her Master of Library Science at Peabody College, she worked for many years in school, college, and public libraries.

Her family moved to the Canal Zone in 1954, and she graduated from Balboa High School in 1963. "Tess" was the granddaughter of Melvin Harrison ("Mike") Walsh, who served as Chief of Customs in Cristobal. Her father, James, was born in Cristobal and worked as a Tugboat Master on the Panama Canal. Her mother, Stacia Marie, worked as a nurse at Gorgas, Coco Solo, and Fort Gulick hospitals. Tess was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Tess was predeceased by her mother and father. She is survived by her husband, Paul, of Fairfield, Calif.; her brother, Mike Walsh, and his wife,

Karen, of Lakeland, Fla.; and her sister-in-law, Margaret "Peggy" (Morgan) Brown of King George, Va.



William "Harry" Harry Munyon Jr., age 80, passed away peacefully in Surprise, Arizona. Born on February 20, 1945, in Panama City, Panama, Harry was the beloved son of the late William Harry Munyon Sr. and Ruth Hyde Munyon.

Harry graduated from Balboa High School in 1963, in the Panama Canal Zone, before earning his degree in International Politics from Tulane University in 1967. He was Battalion Commander in the Naval ROTC, on the Navy Rifle Team and a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity. He entered the US Navy and served his country with pride and distinction on active duty for six years, followed by a career in the US Naval Reserves, where he retired as a Commander. He continued to compete in rifle matches, attending the US Naval War College (1984) and the Armed Forces Staff College (1985). Following active service, he graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1978, having received the prestigious Producer's Council prize for Design Excellence (1977) and the Henry Adams Award (1978). His career focus on criminal justice architecture led to award winning facilities and friendships across the country.

A man of many passions, Harry was an avid writer and storyteller who infused personalities into his many pets throughout the years, often making them the stars of his stories. For many years, he collected O-Gauge Lionel trains, Britains lead toy soldiers, and enjoyed sports cars. He enjoyed music, reading, and celebrated holidays with abandon. He had a natural curiosity and zest for life that touched everyone who knew him. Harry was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

He is preceded in death by his parents, William Sr. and Ruth. He is survived by his loving wife of five years, Christiane Munyon, and his dear sister, Sioux Munyon Swart, as well as by his son, William Scott, whom he adopted as a child. Harry was deeply loved and will be remembered fondly by family, friends, and all who had the pleasure of knowing him. His legacy of kindness, creativity, and service will live on in the hearts of those he leaves behind. He will be interred with full military honors at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona in Phoenix.



Loren Kenneth "Ken" Rood, age 93, of Union, Kentucky, passed away on October 18, 2024, at his residence.

Ken was born May 20, 1931, in Huntington, Penn., to Loren Norwood Rood and Lizzie Mae Rood. After high school, he joined the Air Force, which took him to the Panama Canal Zone, where he met the love of his life, Ginger. After six years in the Air Force, he was employed as an Electronics Technician with Army Aviation, which led to a long, dedicated career with the FAA.

While in the Canal Zone, Ken began his hobby as a Ham Radio operator – first under the call sign KZ5KR, and later KD4PN – and came very close to achieving his goal of communicating with someone from every country in the world. It was also during this time in Panama that Ken began his lifelong involvement with the Freemasons, earning his Third Degree with Army Lodge and subsequently becoming a Shriner at Abou Saad Temple. Ken and his family relocated to Kentucky in 1975, and from there, he continued his Masonic journey with Boone-Union Lodge #304, where he was a Master and served as Secretary for numerous years. He was active in the Scottish Rite, York Rite, Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS), NARFE, Lions Club, Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club, and commissioned as a Kentucky Colonel. Ken was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Mourning his loss is his wife of nearly 70 years, Eugenia "Ginger" Rood (Espiau); children, Laura "Karen" (Hugh) Ramsey of Anderson, S.C., and Loren "Kenny" (Cathy) Rood, of Daytona Beach, Fla.; grandchildren, Lisa (John) England, Shawn (Jessica) Ramsey, Troy (Risa) Marchand, Janelle (Zack) Kleiner, and Cat Rood; nine great-grandchildren, Caison, Easton, Liam, Finley, Sloan, Isaac, Gabe, Anabelle and Evelyn; and his sweet pups whom love him unconditionally, Sadie and Squirt.



Blanca "Blanquita"

McNatt Schield passed away this summer in her beloved home in California. She was 89.

Born in Panama City, Panama, Blanquita grew up in a multigenerational home headed by her grandfather, Juan A. Guizado, the Commander-in-Chief of the Panama Fire Department. He

was her hero. Her family later relocated to the Panama Canal Zone, where her father worked as an accountant for the Panama Canal Company.

Blanquita attended Balboa and Cristobal high schools, cheerleading for both schools in the 1950s. She was also voted Best Personality at BHS. Afterwards, she attended Penn Hall and later earned her degree with honors in political science from Cal State Hayward.

In the 1960s, Blanquita worked in protocol at the Governor's office and married a pathology resident from Gorgas Hospital. After their wedding in Panama City, they drove her white VW Bug from Panama to the United States via the Pan-American Highway—a three-month honeymoon. They lived in Delaware, Massachusetts, Florida, Arizona, and California, with a two-year return to the Canal Zone in the late 1970s.

Blanquita raised a family, loved to dance, and wrote poetry, winning local college awards and being published in local poetry journals. She wrote a compelling travel log of the Soviet Union and self-published the book "Love, Blanquita: Ancestor Portrayals 1741-1951." She was a fan of professional tennis, was always reading, and loved birds, especially our parrot from Panama.

Blanquita traveled for pleasure to Europe, Eurasia, Scandinavia, Central America, the Caribbean, and throughout North America. However, one of her most cherished destinations was her grandparents' house in the town of Penonomé. Her grandfather built the house in 1912, and it was where the family spent its summers. Blanquita was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Blanquita is survived by her youngest brother, Richard McNatt; her husband; children; and grandchildren.

Blanquita is deeply missed. However, her wit, spark, creativity, intelligence, courage, emotion, and beauty will always be remembered. She loved Panama and her family, and so missed the friends she had lost along the way. We miss her now, too.



Patricia Rose Sechrest,

a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, was called into the loving arms of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on September 18, 2025. She passed away peacefully, surrounded by loved ones.

Pati was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, on December 20, 1946, the second of five children born to Angela Maria Galasso and Joseph Nazareno DeSandis, both of Italian heritage. She grew up in Dunmore, Penn., graduating from Dunmore High School in June 1964. Pati then attended Bloomsburg State College, but



after her first year, she accepted an invitation from her aunt to visit the Panama Canal Zone. At 18 years old, Pati made her first plane trip and her first trip outside the U.S. She liked it so much that she convinced her parents to let her stay for two years to attend Canal Zone College, where she earned an Associate of Arts degree. During her time there, she was crowned Jamboree Queen for Canal Zone College and participated in the Canal Zone conjunto for Carnival in Panama City. She was one of two Majorettes who performed during halftime shows for Canal Zone College football games, at times twirling fire batons. She also worked part-time at the Canal Zone Library in the Cataloging Department.

In 1967, in Panama, Pati met Kenneth Anderson, her first husband. They married on December 30, 1967, at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Dunmore, the same church where Pati had worshipped as a child. The couple moved to Titusville, Fla., where Kenny worked as a Physical Education teacher. After a year, they relocated to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, so that Kenny could pursue a Doctorate of Education. It was here that Pati became a mother for the first time, welcoming her daughter, Eva, in April 1969.

The family later returned to Panama, Kenny's birthplace. Pati embraced the unique culture of the country, where she would raise her three children: Eva, Ashley, and Luke. Pati was deeply involved at St. Mary's Church in Balboa, Panama, where she served as a lector, CCD teacher, Religious Education Director, and on altar duty—an area of ministry she cherished. A highlight of her life was attending a Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II during his visit to Panama in 1983, an unforgettable experience.

In addition to raising three children, Pati was determined to complete her education. She proudly earned a bachelor's degree in Fashion Merchandising and Business from the University of Southern Mississippi. She worked as a sales representative for a company serving military commissaries and

exchanges, and later as the Office Administrator at the United States Southern Command Legal Office, where she was honored as USSOUTHCOM Civilian of the Year.

Pati's life in Panama spanned the years that included the upheaval and tension of the Torrijos and Noriega regimes. She had many memories of the events of those eras, including Operation "Just Cause," the military action led by the United States that ended the Noriega dictatorship.

After her first marriage ended in 1994, Pati moved to Guam, where she married Darrell Sechrest. As an Air Force wife, she had the opportunity to live in Guam, Germany, and Utah. During their time in Guam, Pati became certified in scuba diving and developed a passion for golf. It wasn't until years later that she even achieved a hole-in-one! Her diving adventures took her to the islands of Palau and Yap, and she traveled with Darrell to destinations like Singapore and Bali. While in Germany, she worked for a broker selling to the Army and Air Force Exchange Services, and her travels across eight European countries, including the Czech Republic and Malta, enriched her life. Their final military assignment brought them to Ogden, Utah.

In 2002, Pati and Darrell retired and settled in Sierra Vista, AZ. They built a beautiful life together in the Winterhaven community. Pati enjoyed her retirement years by staying active, whether hiking, biking, playing golf, or traveling. She was actively involved in the Sierra Vista Women's Club and the Pueblo Del Sol Golf Club. She was also involved in the community at Our Lady of the Mountains, which provided her with comfort and support in her last years.

Pati cherished her role as a Nonna (grandmother) to Drew Fishbough, Dylan Fishbough, and David Anderson, and was actively involved in their lives. She loved her family, and she loved life.

Pati is survived by her husband, Darrell Sechrest; her children, Eva (Evan Rodaniche) Anderson, Ashley (Daryl) Fishbough, and Luke Anderson; her grandchildren; and her siblings, Vita (James) Giacometti, Joseph (Rosie) DeSandis, Denise (James) Cammerota, and Brenda (Bobby) Hughes. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her, and her legacy of faith, love, and strength will live on in the hearts of her family and friends.

Florence Nichols "Nickie" Thompson passed away peacefully at the age of 95 on Tuesday, September 16, 2025. Born June 23, 1930, in McCondy, Mississippi, to the late Shelby and Nannie Lee Westbrook Nichols. She was the youngest of eight siblings, six brothers and two sisters. Nickie spent her formative years on her family's farm in Mississippi. After high school, she attended Delta State in



Cleveland, Miss., where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. While at Delta State, her cousin arranged a blind date to a Methodist youth meeting with Hank Thompson. They fell in love, married in 1952, and shared a beautiful love story for 73 years.

Nickie and Hank arrived in the Canal Zone in 1969 to become teachers with the Canal Zone Schools Division. Gamboa was home to them for many years until they "moved into town" and lived in Diablo until their retirement. Nickie's teaching career spanned 35 years, including teaching at Los Rios Elementary and Diablo Elementary schools. While in the Canal Zone, she was a faithful member of the Gamboa Union Church and later of the Balboa Union Church.

After retirement, Nickie and Hank made their home in Harrison, Ark. She was a faithful member of the First United Methodist Church, a member of the Nellie Dyer Circle, and a long-standing member of their Sunday school class. She was a member of Chapter H, P.E.O., and the Hoe and Hope Garden Club. She enjoyed birdwatching, hiking, jigsaw puzzles, and crafts. She loved wearing hats and looked classy and stylish while doing so. Her love language was serving and cooking for others. She was an excellent southern cook!

Nickie had a great love of travel that began when she and Hank decided to take teaching assignments to Pago Pago, American Samoa, and the Panama Canal Zone. The Thompson family's love of travel was born. They continued their travels across the globe, visiting the South Pacific, Australia, New Zealand, South America, and Europe. Closer to home, Nickie and Hank enjoyed traveling the U.S. in their R.V., including four road trips to Alaska and back.

Friends and family describe her as a quiet, gentle, sweet Southern lady. She was loved and respected by many. She never sought the forefront but was a true force behind the scenes. She was a loving wife, mother, and Mimi who adored her family. The greatest gift she gave her family was a solid Christian foundation. Her love for the Lord was woven into every aspect of her life.

Nickie was preceded in death by her parents and siblings. She is survived by her loving husband, Hank; daughters, Pam Thompson Little (Mike) of Jacksonville Beach, Fla., and Sharon Thompson Trevisan (Luciano) of Aviano, Italy, and Branson, Mo.; and her grandchildren, Dr. Jacob Langston (Lauren) and Jillian Langston Hunter (Reid). She was especially happy to know and love her great-grandchildren, William Langston and Amelia Langston. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.