

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.



William Bert Abresch, Sr. 93, passed away on March 27, 2025, in Wesley Chapel, Florida.

William was born on August 13, 1931, in Racine, Wisconsin, to Samuel Claude Abresch of Somers, Wisconsin, and Della Simmons of Blanchard, Idaho. William spent his early childhood living in Garden

Grove, Calif., before returning to Somers, Wisc.

In Somers, William lived with his paternal grandmother, Mary Maude McFarlane Mueller's family, and their dairy farm. Growing up on a dairy farm, William developed a strong work ethic when tasked with various jobs in tending field crops. William later graduated from Washington Park High School in 1950.

After finishing high school, William completed coursework at the Milwaukee School of Engineering. While still in engineering school, William began his work career with American Motors, contributing to the assembly of Rambler vehicles and participating part-time in construction projects in the Chicago area as an ironworker. The advent of the Korean Conflict prompted William to join the US Navy.

After basic training at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, William served for eight years in a variety of roles, including as a member of a crash crew at the Naval Station Oceana Fire Department in Virginia Beach, Va. Later, he worked as an electrician's mate while serving aboard the oil tanker *USS Waccamaw* (AO-109). William participated in the oiler's fourth tour with the US 6th Fleet of the Mediterranean and later in the western Atlantic and Caribbean Sea.

An avid reader interested in history and science, William often visited historical and cultural sites on tour with the Navy, such as Rome, Vatican City, Athens, and North Africa. Later in his Navy service, William served aboard the Bluebird class minesweeper *USS Thrush* (MSC-204) as an electrician's mate and came to Coco Solo, Canal Zone in Panama, in 1959.

While stationed in Coco Solo, Panama, William met and married Severina (Lina) Franco of Sona, Veraguas Province, Panama, and raised four children. After serving eight years of service in the US Navy, William came to work in the Canal Zone Postal Division in October 1962. While moving on from a Naval career, William's navy experiences were a foundation of involvement in the American Legion, especially with activities of the David Lee Post 552 of Somers, Wisconsin.

William served in various roles for the Postal System in the Canal Zone, including general foreman duties at the Balboa Post Office in the Panama Canal Zone. In 1979, William transferred to the USAF 4400 Air Postal Squadron and managed postal operations at several military installations in the Canal Zone area until retiring in January 1985. After

emigrating to Temple Terrace, Florida, William embarked on another career serving in a variety of full-time and part-time clerk and administrative support roles at the University of South Florida from 1986 until 2014 in departments such as Auxiliary Services Central Receiving and Muma College of Business Dean's Office operations.

In retirement, William and his family often took long road trips to visit family and friends in Midwestern and Eastern US locations such as Chicago and St. Louis. William continued his interest in learning by visiting historical sites and museums while traveling with his family.

Besides traveling, William enjoyed working with his hands and finished numerous woodworking projects in his homework space. With a sharp memory and a gift for storytelling, William often regaled listeners with his childhood and teenage memories of the Great Depression and World War Two Eras in Wisconsin.

William is survived by his half-sister, Share Lynn Corcoran, and half-brother, Michael Arthur Corcoran of Seattle, Washington; Stepson, Ernie Abresch of Albuquerque, N.M.; daughter, Zoraida Abresch of Santa Barbara, Calif.; son, William "Bill" Abresch Jr. and John Abresch both of Zephyrhills, Florida.



Gary Michael Anderson, aged 81, passed away peacefully on December 25, 2024, surrounded by his loving family following emergency open-heart surgery at the Pepin Heart Institute in Tampa, Florida.

Gary was born on September 27, 1943, in Ancon, Canal Zone, Panama, to Norman Clyde Anderson Jr. and Agnes Marion Atkinson. He spent his childhood in Balboa, Canal Zone, Panama, alongside his siblings, Kenneth Joseph Anderson and Marylin Jean Lyttle. From elementary school through high school, Gary formed lifelong friendships and created cherished memories.

After attending the Canal Zone Junior College for two years, Gary began a fulfilling 32-year career with the Panama Canal. His work brought pride and a deep connection to his home in the Canal Zone. Later, in 1997, he relocated with his beloved wife Ellen to Zephyrhills, Florida, where they created new memories together.

Gary loved playing and watching golf, was an avid fan of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and celebrated every holiday with joy and elaborate decorations. He also had a deep passion for photography, capturing all of life's greatest moments, and cherished attending the Masters golf tournament every year—a tradition that brought him and Ellen immense happiness. Gary was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Gary took immense pride in his role as a police officer for the Canal Zone, a position he thoroughly enjoyed and excelled at. His dedication to his community, family, and passions made him a role model and beloved friend to all who knew him.

Gary's journey through life was enriched by his marriages to Eleanor "Galena" Putaturo (1962–1974) and, later, Ellen Elizabeth Wilson in July of 1979. He was a devoted husband to Ellen and a loving father to Carrie Michelle Rice (Tom), Kevin Michael Anderson (Tracey), Christine Marie Wilder (Jeffrey), Stephen Michael Mallia (Kamila), and Michael Sean Anderson (Kristy). He is also survived by his six grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, his younger brother, his son Kevin, and three grandchildren.

Gary will be deeply missed and forever remembered for his love of life, his family, and his extraordinary ability to bring joy to every occasion.



Thomas (Tom) Lynn Anderson, born on April 26, 1960, in Groves, Texas, passed away on February 22, 2025, surrounded by his loved ones.

Tom was a beloved son, brother, father, grandfather, uncle, and friend. His life was marked by his dedication to his family, his passion for cooking, and his love for the outdoors. Tom spent his early years in the Panama Canal Zone, where he developed a deep appreciation for the natural world. This early connection to nature stayed with him throughout his life, inspiring many of his hobbies and interests. Tom is a graduate of Balboa High School, Class of 1978.



He pursued a career in the United States Navy and Merchant Marines in the early '80s. Tom then settled in the St. Petersburg, Florida area, where he owned and operated his personal pool cleaning and repair business.

Tom is preceded in death by his mother, Linda DesLondes, and his father, Captain Sam Anderson.

Tom is survived by his children, Sean Anderson, and David Ball; granddaughter, Everleigh Anderson; sister Lisa DesLondes Rambo; mother of his granddaughter, Courtney Humphries; beloved stepdad, Jim DesLondes; brothers Jimmy and Damon DesLondes; beloved friend and mother of his children, Kathy Clarihew Anderson; companion, Cynthia Torosian; and aunts, uncles, cousins, who will forever remember his kindness, and the joy he brought into their lives. Tom's puppy Precious will miss his snuggles and love the most.

Tom will be deeply missed, but his spirit will live on in the hearts of those fortunate enough to know him. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Stephen William Bailey, 75, loving husband, father, and grandfather, passed away on November 18, 2024. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Cynthia Bailey, his steadfast partner in life, and his sister, Patricia Bailey-Sarnelli. Stephen was a proud father to his son, Mikhail Bailey, and his daughter, Meghan Ondrish, and to their spouses, Erin Bailey and Shawn Ondrish. He was a doting grandfather to Isabelle, Mia, Owen, Ellison, and Leo, the five greatest joys of his life.

Born on October 20, 1949, in New Orleans, Louisiana, to Bill and Jean Bailey, Stephen spent most of his childhood in the Panama Canal Zone, living an adventurous life most children only read about—exploring jungles and swimming alongside sharks. He traded sunshine for snow when he attended Shattuck, a military boarding school in Faribault, Minnesota. He later earned a bachelor's degree from Gustavus Adolphus College and a master's degree from the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

He met his wife Cynthia in the Panama Canal Zone, and the two were married on December 20, 1973. Steve and Cindy began their life together in Duluth, Minnesota, before choosing Richmond, Virginia, to settle, start their family, and build their careers. Stephen dedicated 31 years to Chesterfield County Public Schools, teaching history and computer sciences with enthusiasm and care. He also served as an adjunct faculty member at John Tyler Community College in Chesterfield and spent a memorable year teaching in Hangzhou, China, before retiring in 2013.

In recent years, Stephen found happiness in writing, channeling his creativity into stories and essays. Never discouraged by rejection, he published four books and numerous short stories. Above all, he was a devoted caregiver, tending to his wife, Cindy, with unwavering love and patience during her journey with dementia.

A true citizen of the world, Stephen was endlessly fascinated by its cultures and histories. He found immense joy in traveling, learning through avid reading and research, and sharing his discoveries with others. He held a special place in his heart for his pets, major league baseball, running and swimming, and a cold beer. His enduring kindness, unshakable optimism, and sense of humor touched all who knew him and will continue to inspire those fortunate enough to have been part of his life.



Bonnie Jo Beasley passed away on January 7, 2025. Bonnie was born to Horace and Blanche Bishop on May 15, 1945. She was the second of four children, along with Sandra, Billie, and David. She had fond memories of growing up in Curundu Heights.

Bonnie attended Balboa High School, graduating in the Class of

1963. She married Jerald Curtis, and they became parents to Jerald Curtis (BHS Class of 1981). After she divorced Jerry, she married Allen Steiner, and they moved to the Virgin Islands and then to Houston.

Bonnie returned to Panama in 1986 and started working for the Army at USARSO Headquarters. She later married Alvin "Edward" Beasley (whom she fondly called Bubba). They enjoyed living in Los Rios for years after their retirement.

After the turnover of the Canal Zone, Ed went to work for overseas contractors in Africa, and they started traveling around that area, exploring and enjoying a Safari or two. They both enjoyed sharing their experiences and adventures. In 2017, Bonnie and Ed had their dream home constructed and moved to Ocala, Florida.

Bonnie was a proud member of B.P.O. Elks Lodge 1414 of Balboa and served as an officer for several years. She was also a Panama Canal Society member and enjoyed spending time with her friends at the annual Reunions.

Bonnie is survived by her son, Jerry (Michele) Curtis, and grandchildren, Reagan and Ryan. She is also survived by her sister Billie (Sam) Greenwood, niece Ronda, and nephew. Danon; her sister Sandy's children, Curt, Robin, Renee, Russell, and Scarlet; her brother David, and his daughter, Dee Salvas.

Bonnie was predeceased in death by her father, Horace, mother, Blanche, her older sister, Sandra, and her husband, Ed Beasley, on January 25, 2019.

James (Jim) B. Borsellino, age 76, passed away peacefully on April 20, 2025, at Our Lady of Peace Nursing Home in Lewiston, New York, with family by his side.

Jim was born on February 12, 1949, in Ancon, Canal Zone, Panama, to the late Frank and Ernesta (Concepcion) Borsellino. He graduated from Cristobal High School on the Atlantic side of the Isthmus and joined the US Navy before moving to WNY.

Jim was a loving father, a hard worker, an avid bowler, a member of the Knights of Columbus, and dedicated to his faith. He retired from NYS Thruway Authority and traveled often. His family will miss him for his "dad" jokes and for being a role model.

Jim is survived by his three daughters, Jennifer, Denise (Jono) Lo Bue, and Teresa; two grandchildren, Elijah and Elliana; siblings, Josephine, Frank, John, Henry, and Gabriel; and many nieces and nephews. His parents and his brother Abel predecease him.



Phillip Carl Breunle, DR. P.H., COL, USA (RET), LFACHE, EMERITUS FAAMA / DIPLOMATE, passed away peacefully on January 14, 2025, at the age of 86, surrounded by his loving family. He lived a distinguished life of service, education, and dedication to his family and country.



Born on January 8, 1939, Phil was a lifelong scholar, graduating from Hornell High School in New York in 1956. He earned a BA in Biology from Alfred University in 1960 and a Master's in Healthcare Administration

from Baylor University in 1972. His passion for healthcare and public service led him to Tulane University, where he earned a Master's in Public Health Care Administration in 1978 and a Doctorate in Public Health Care Administration in 1980.

Phil's military career spanned 30 years as a United States Army Medical Service Corps Officer (1960-1990), where he achieved the rank of full Colonel. His military education was extensive, including the U.S. Army Medical Department's Officer Basic Course, Airborne School, U.S. Army Infantry School, and Command and General Staff College. His assignments took him around the world, from Korea to Thailand, Panama, and Vietnam, where he served in leadership roles such as Company Commander, Executive Officer, and Deputy Commander for Administration. Notably, he worked as a Military Assistant to the Governor of the Panama Canal and played a key role in health administration within the Canal Zone Government.

Over his career, Phil was recognized with numerous awards and decorations, including the Parachutist Badge, Korean Defense Service Medal, Expert Medical Badge, Meritorious Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60 Device ("60" signifying the start of the Vietnam War 1960), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Legion of Merit, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon with 2 Device ("2" signifying two overseas tours of duty), Army Achievement Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal, and Defense Meritorious Medal. His professional accomplishments were further acknowledged through prestigious honors such as the Delta Omega Society induction at Tulane University, the Distinguished Service Award from the American Academy of Medical Administrators, and selection by the Army Medical Department Command Selection Board for a principal command assignment.

Beyond his military service, Phil was a dedicated educator and mentor. He held faculty positions with Baylor University, serving as an Assistant and Associate Professor, and later worked as an Adjunct Faculty Advisor and Mentor with Southwest University in New Orleans. A lifelong learner, he remained active in professional organizations, including the American College of Healthcare Executives, the American Academy of Medical Administrators, the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, and The Retired Officers Association. Phil's commitment to continued education included attending several Health Care conferences, being a member of various Health Care Committees and Appointments, and writing a multitude of publications.

Phil also had a deep commitment to his community. After retiring from the Army, he worked as the Weekend

Manager for Porter Place Retirement Community from 1995 to 2004. He volunteered at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Aurora, Colorado, and Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver. He was known for his generosity and kindness, always willing to help neighbors in need, rescue and adopt feral cats, and lend a hand wherever needed. In his personal time, he enjoyed collecting antique bottles, watches, and fountain pens. Phil was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Phil married the love of his life, Judith Ann White, on May 30, 1964, at Grace Episcopal Church in Merchantville, New Jersey. Together, they recently celebrated 60 wonderful years of marriage in Denver, Colorado, with their family.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Judith, and their children: Shawn J. Breunle (wife April), Melissa S. Breunle, Kristan S. Breunle (wife Maria), and Kara Lynn Breunle Snyder (husband David Snyder III). His legacy continues through his cherished grandchildren: Brittany Malnar Hurst, Ethan Gillette, Morgan, Zachary, and Rachel Breunle, Reese and Arianna Lory, Katherine and Abigail von Poks, and Emily, Lara, and David Snyder IV, as well as his great-granddaughter, Anastasia Lory.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Weldon S. and Ruth Breunle of Hornell, New York.

Phil was known for doing things his way, a sentiment best captured by his favorite saying: "I Did It My Way." His family finds comfort in knowing that he passed with dignity, grace, and on his terms.



of three children to Donald and Loretta Date. He was intelligent, friendly, and had a good sense of humor. (He was that person in school who didn't have to study math and got an A on the test.) The family moved to the Canal Zone in 1958, where Donald took a position as an architect with the then Panama Canal Company. Daryl and Alison, his little sister, quickly took to life in the tropical Canal Zone. Daryl became an avid surfer. He married his high school sweetheart, Carol (Serger) Pickersgill, after graduation from Balboa High School, class of 1969.

Daryl lived in Tampa for many years, working at Sears Optical as an optician, then working various sales jobs until he moved to St. Croix, USVI. Daryl was a great salesperson who was easy to talk with and found work providing small businesses with various business supplies. He was rich in the vast collection of people who loved and appreciated him. Daryl was grateful for his life, the friends and family he loved and who loved him, and he said so often. He lived on his terms, carving out a life for himself and adopting the "island time" way of life. Daryl loved nature and being outdoors. He continued surfing on St. Croix and had a close group of friends that became like family, celebrating holidays and special events when he wasn't visiting with his blood relatives.

Daryl died suddenly (likely from a heart attack) on February 10, 2025. His death was quick and painless, like he always said he wished it would be. He had a strong faith, so he would no doubt tell you not to worry about him.

He leaves behind his mom, Loretta Date (predeceased by his father, Don Date); his sisters, Alison and Donna; his friend and first wife, Carol, and second wife, Sandra Hurtado; his beloved daughter, Candace (Date) Buddemeier; and two wonderful grandchildren who he loved deeply, Shane and Dana Buddemeier; along with many loyal friends both from the Canal Zone and St. Croix.

To be remembered as a kind person is a wonderful thing—surf on, Daryl.



Joan Beverly Conover passed away in August of 2024. She was 90 years old and lived in San Diego, California.

Joan was born May 16, 1934, to parents Stuart Gibson and Gertrude Harrison Gibson in the Canal Zone of Panama. Shortly after graduating from Balboa High School in 1952, she married Francis Conover, and they moved to Los Angeles, Calif.

They started a family there before moving to San Diego, Calif., in 1961.

Her husband Francis worked in the aerospace industry until his death in 1985. Joan enjoyed her seasonal employment with the San Diego Registrar of Voters. Joan enjoyed good health until the last few months of her life.

She is survived by her son Keith and daughter Lori. Joan will be missed and remembered by all who knew her. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Daryl Date passed away on February 10, 2025. Daryl was a good friend and would go out of his way to help you if he could. Everyone who knew him would agree.

Daryl was born in Detroit, Michigan, on November 26, 1951, the first



Susan Foster Davis, still charming and vivacious at 83, passed away on January 5, 2025. At the time of her death, Susan was residing in Boulder, Colorado, near her daughter Heather, son-in-law Mark, and granddaughters Ava and Shae. Until then, she lived in Marianna, Florida, with her husband of 31 years, John Wayne Davis. She will forever be remembered as that petite, beautiful woman with unparalleled strength and stamina.

Susan was born to Jack and Mary Lou Foster on January

2, 1942, at the old Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, Florida. In 1949, the family moved to Crestview, Florida. Her vibrant personality flourished in high school through her passions - marching band and dance. At a mere 4' 11" majorette, she impressed innumerable football fans with her energetic baton-twirling performances. After graduating in 1959, she earned her degree in Education from Troy State College in 1965. This small and very Southern institution was ideal for Susan, with her glamorous good looks, to shine in various beauty queen pageants.

She began her long teaching career as an elementary school teacher in Escambia County Schools in Pensacola and San Diego, California, before accepting a job with the Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DODS). Her first DODS teaching assignment was in Germany, where she met her future husband, Jack Pylant, a high school biology teacher. This small-town girl loved life overseas and traveled extensively to most Western European countries.

The couple was posted to Okinawa for a year and then settled in the Panama Canal Zone, Republic of Panama, where their daughter Heather was born in 1968. Susan deeply appreciated the Panamanian culture, art, people, and cuisine. Susan taught kindergarten and 1st grade at Balboa Elementary School, where she made an indelible impact on many children's lives. She worked as a reading specialist and finally as a resource room teacher at Balboa High School. While in the Canal Zone, Susan earned a master's degree from Penn State. She retired from DODS schools in 1990 and returned to Florida to be near her aging parents and work at Pensacola State College.

In 1993, she married her old friend and college sweetheart, John Davis, who grew up in Laurel Hill, Florida. They briefly lived in Atlanta, where Susan worked for General Motors. After John Wayne's federal retirement, they purchased a house in Marianna, Florida - a creative outlet for Susan, who transformed a regular house into a spectacular home. Susan, as always, enjoyed hosting memorable family events and parties. She was a fabulous host, known throughout the area for entertainment with that special, charismatic "Susan" touch.

Susan devoted her final career years to Sunland Center, a State-run adult Developmental Disability Center. She trained, educated, and supported residents and staff, including a workshop on domestic violence. This provided a deep sense of accomplishment, knowing Susan had made significant contributions in a vital area that was important to her. Amidst her backyard trees, birds, and other wildlife along Merritts Mill Pond, she enjoyed the quiet and peace with her beloved yet unruly labrador, Cornbread.

In 2021, Susan was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, which she bravely announced at a family gathering and provided life expectancy estimates from the doctor in true "say it like it is" Susan fashion. In her final months, she remained witty, funny, insightful, smart, loving, caring, and above all, totally unafraid. Always brave, she faced whatever would come - faithfully believing that puppies, rainbows, babies, and flowers awaited her in the next life. Her most notable final quote is: *"I'm not leaving; I'm arriving."*

Survivors and witnesses to her amazing life include her husband, John Wayne; her daughter, Heather Pylant, and

husband, Mark Williams. She also leaves behind three loving brothers: Donald (Pam) Crosby, Robert (Jane) Crosby, and George (Sue) Foster. Her legacy lives on through her granddaughters, Ava and Shae Williams, who carry the torch of her spirit along with several nieces and nephews.



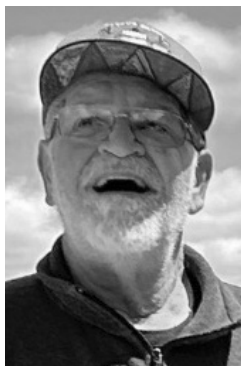
Gladys Frances Gramlich, December 8, 1922 – January 18, 2025.

It is with deep love and heartfelt remembrance that we announce the passing of Gladys Frances Gramlich, a cherished mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister-in-law, aunt, and friend. Born in Delaware in 1922, Gladys embraced life with passion and an adventurous spirit that led her to the vibrant Panama Canal Zone—a place she proudly called home until later settling in Florida.

Known for her warm hospitality and her love of entertaining, Gladys found great joy in gathering with family and friends. She shared a long and fulfilling life with her beloved husband, Gregory Gramlich (retired Senior Lock Master PCC), who preceded her in death.

She is survived by her children, Larry Gramlich (retired Senior Lock Master/Diver PCC), (Aggie), and Beverly Gramlich; grandchildren, Greg Gramlich (Tamara), Jean Marie (Gramlich) Conner (Rene Acuna), Terri Bianchi (Joe), Tess Reed (Philip); great-grandchildren Jason Gramlich (Amanda Ho), James Conner IV (Courtney), Jamie Conner, Rex and Jhett Bianchi, Devin Reed (Elaine) and Emma Reed; brother-in-law Richard Gramlich; and nephew Gregor Gramlich (Debbie) and their seven children.

Gladys' love for life was infectious, and her generosity knew no bounds. Whether riding motorcycles, celebrating with loved ones, enjoying the beach, or playing a game of dominoes or Yahtzee, she made a lasting impact on all who knew her. Her memory will be treasured for generations to come. Gladys was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Ralph Douglas Hepner, Ralph Douglas Hepner, age 69, of Frankston, Texas, passed away on February 17, 2025, after a brief illness, surrounded by the love and care of his family. He was born in Jamestown, New York, on April 27, 1955.

He is preceded in death by his loving parents, Dorothy and Ed Hepner. Ralph is survived and missed by his sister, Dr. Marcie (Eric) Zaharee of N.H.; daughter, Heidi (Kevin) Fridinger of Texas; son, Ken Hepner of Texas; and former wife and friend, Susan Willis of Panama. He has five grandchildren, Tyler, Matthew, Joshua, Ashley, and Madeline, and one great-grandchild, Sophia. He is also survived by his niece, Chantille Wooten of Fla., and nephew, Joseph Plaisance of Mass.



Ralph adored spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchild, sharing stories, jokes, and life lessons that left a lasting impression on their hearts.

Ralph spent his youth in the Panama Canal Zone, specifically in Gatun. He had many great memories of growing up in the Canal Zone with family and friends. He was known for his sense of humor, easygoing nature, strong values, and faith, and he was well-liked by his peers. He was a graduate of Christobal Jr Sr High School class of 1973. He was one of the original Gatun boys who always had fun on the Atlantic side and occasionally got into trouble with the rest of us. He loved living in the Canal Zone and enjoyed the good things Panama had to offer.

Ralph was never into sports at CHS but played in the school band at all school functions to boost school pride and spirit, playing at all home games of the football and basketball games at Tiger Stadium and away games at the Balboa Stadium.

Over the years, he worked and lived in Jamestown, N.Y.; the Colony, Texas; Winterhaven, Fla; Tyler, Texas; and Frankston, Texas. For the last 10 years, he had been a bus driver for the Forney and Frankston, Texas school systems. He was a dedicated worker with a strong work ethic and received many accolades from his employers. He always took on new opportunities and did everything with honesty and integrity. He was a lifelong member of the Panama Canal Society and attended all of the CHS '73 class reunions every five years.

His legacy will forever remind us that we control our attitudes and faith. We should live a life of meaningful acts of love and service for family and friends, as Ralph modeled for us.



Sherry Ann Kern Keimig, 71, passed away quietly on February 15, 2025, in Webster, Texas, after a brave fight against cancer. She was born to proud parents, William and Mary Lou Kern, on July 19, 1953, in Mobile, Alabama.

Sherry was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers Samuel Moore and Charles Kern, and her sister Linda Patterson.



Sherry is survived by her devoted and loving husband of 34 years, Ty; her son Kory Keimig and his wife Courtney, and their children Brooke and Colt; her daughter Marymarie Scarbrough and her husband Ryan, and their daughter Arya; her brothers Bill and Terry Kern; her favorite dogs, Buckee and Roxy; and more family and friends than could ever be counted. Sherry was greatly anticipating

the arrival of her fourth grandchild, Luke Scarbrough, in August.

Sherry's greatest and most fulfilling joy in this life was being a mom to anyone and every one her kids brought home, a friend and confidant to every adult she met, and the best G-Ma to her three grandbabies. She never met a stranger and would leave a lasting impression on all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Sherry was a woman of many interests, passions, genres, and abilities. Bowling was her favorite pastime. She looked forward to weekly games on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and loved it when Ty could join her. Their favorite part was when someone would get a strike, and Ty would yell, "Who's your daddy?!"

Sherry was an avid antique collector and could almost always tell you the value of something beautiful and unique. She had an eye for collections and knew many in the antique business in Galveston, Texas.

When her children were growing up, Sherry was highly involved in the PTA and was PTA president. She loved helping every child, parent, and teacher alike. She had such a mind for business and creation, sharing her gift with the communities and making lasting impressions that are still recognized to this day.

Sherry grew up in many places, but her favorite was living in the Panama Canal Zone. She lived in Gatun while attending and graduating from Cristobal High School in 1971. She later moved to Gamboa, where she attended Canal Zone College. Sherry had many stories to share of the wild and fun times she had there and loved being able to coordinate annual reunions of the entire Canal Zone group. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society. Sherry will be greatly missed and remembered by many.



Robert "Bob" Francis Meyers passed away on December 20, 2024. Bob was born at Gorgas Hospital in Ancon, Canal Zone, on September 16, 1944. He graduated from Balboa High School, class of 1962. After high school, he obtained an electrician apprenticeship at the Locks. Later in life, he was promoted to Senior Control House Operator and retired in 1999. Bob was a member of the Panama Canal Society. No further information is available.



Lester Dalton Oliver passed away peacefully on March 16, 2025, at his home in Casselberry, Florida, after a long battle with cancer. He was 72 years old.

Born on September 16, 1952, in Abilene, Texas, Lester spent his formative years in the Panama Canal Zone, making many lifelong friends and cherished memories.



Lester was with the Balboa High School class of 1970. He later moved to Southern California, where he met his wife and started a family. Some of his greatest joys came from raising his three children and creating lasting memories of exploring the beaches, mountains, and theme parks of California.

Lester had a dedicated career with the U.S. Postal Service as a mail carrier before relocating to Hendersonville, Tennessee, where he lived for 25 years. There, he worked as a chief engineer at a hotel. Lester was passionate about pinball and poker games, tending to his many plants, and soaking up the sun. He also enjoyed a top-shelf margarita and had a great sense of humor, always ready with a practical joke. Lester was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Lester was preceded in death by his wife of 35 years, Deborah; his parents, Ernest and Catherine; his sister, Lee; and his brother, Bruce.

He is survived by his children, Gayle (Richard), Linda, and Chris, and his brother, Victor.

Lester's memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew him. There will not be a formal service, but the family encourages friends and family to celebrate his life in their own way.

Captain **Robert Samuel Peake**, a Master Mariner, retired Naval Commander, retired Puget Sound Pilot, and Canal Zone Pilot, died peacefully on December 9, 2024, in Sun City, Arizona.

He was born on March 8, 1927, in Wallace, Idaho. He left his family home in Seattle at the age of 14 to work as a cabin boy aboard a wooden lumber ship. He spent most of his life in the Puget Sound area, except for his time on active duty in the Navy and working as a Panama Canal pilot. He moved full-time to Arizona in August 2020.

Robert is survived by three children, Andrew Peake, Robin Peake, Matthew Peake, and two grandchildren.



Lois Ellen Deutch Rojas, 74, born and raised in Buffalo, New York, passed away peacefully on March 1, 2024, in her home surrounded by family.

A graduate of Riverside High School, class of 1967, she participated in the All High Band, Chorus, Spanish Club (President), Orchestra, and Future Teachers Club.

Before graduating from SUNY Buffalo State College, Lois studied abroad for one year in Costa Rica, where she became fluent in Spanish and then earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education. In 1971, she began teaching at Bennett High School and

Grover Cleveland High School while completing her Master of Arts at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

In her college years, Lois met Edwin, her future husband of 49 years, married, and moved to Panama, where the journey began teaching with Canal Zone Schools (later Department of Defense Dependent Schools) at Curundu Jr. High School. She taught English and Spanish (both Language and Literature) and English as a second language.

Though known for being strict in the classroom, her students remember witty one-liners, learning about Panamanian and Latin American culture through food tasting, dancing, playing musical instruments, field trips, history, and hands-on local folklore. If you had her for English, you knew of her love for Shakespeare and was so proud to have stood on the very stage of the Globe Theater in Southmark later in life. After her retirement in 1999, Lois took some time to travel throughout Europe and later returned to teaching at Balboa Academy, overseeing the National Honor Society and Spanish AP classes, where she engrained her favorite quote, "The Onus is On Us."

While in Panama, Lois soaked in as much of the culture as she could, traveling to all the provinces, partaking in their festivals, even performing on stage with the Ballet Folklorico Nacional de Panamá (during carnival parades and Panama Viejo), joining her daughters. Her love of the arts led her to take ballet, tap, and jazz lessons and be active in the community theater, having acted on the stages of The Ancon Theater Guild and Pacific Theater Arts Centre.

Lois was an avid reader, enjoyed NY Times crossword puzzles, studied language and cultures, and was the biggest fan of the Buffalo Bills football team. She lived her life to the fullest and most enjoyed spending every second she could with her "two sweethearts," grandsons Ryne and Carson. They were her pride and joy.

She was predeceased in death by her father, Sherwood M. Deutch, mother, Charlotte Deutch (Pliss), and younger brother, Andrew Deutch. Lois is survived by her husband, daughters Lisa Rojas (Jackie) and Melanie Layman (Kevin); grandsons Ryne, Carson, and Rhys; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Lois bravely battled cancer and once again gave back to the community at Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, where she selflessly donated her body to continue her love of teaching!

Lois will be lovingly remembered for her contagious laugh, positive outlook on life, extensive knowledge, passion for learning and teaching, and loyalty to friends and her hometown team, the Buffalo Bills. Most of all, for her dedication and sacrifices for her greatest achievement, her beloved family.





Cynthia "Cindy" Anne Rosenblatt Rauscher passed away in her home on April 11, 2025, in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Cindy was born on May 15, 1953, at Gorgas Hospital and raised in the former Canal Zone. She was 2nd eldest daughter of Flossie (Fallon) and David Rosenblatt. Cindy graduated from Balboa High School in 1971, and was an active part of the Canal Zone Jewish Community. Cindy cared about protecting the environment and actively worked toward fairness and justice for all races.

Our hearts go out to Cindy's five children, Nicole, Joshua, Sara, Meghann, and Ian; her six grandchildren; her former husband, Steve Rauscher; and her sisters, Carrie Rosenblatt Mills and Kimberly Fallon Rider. She was predeceased by her older sister, Cathy. We want to thank Josh and Andrea Rauscher, especially for caring for her in her final years. Rest in peace, big Sis.

Sharon Lee Theresa (Booth) Schmidt passed away quietly, surrounded by her family on February 5, 2025.

Sharon was born in the Panama Canal Zone in Gorgas Hospital on August 18, 1941. She was the daughter of Kenneth and Josephine Booth. Sharon graduated from Balboa High School in 1959. She then graduated from the Panama Canal College with an Associate in Arts degree. On April 6, 1963, Sharon married Douglas Schmidt. They were married at the Amador Chapel in Panama and they have been married for 61 years.

Sharon was employed by the United States Air Force as a civilian for a short period. Then she became an employee of the Panama Canal Company, General Services Division, as a Visa Examiner. After 28 years of service, she and Doug retired to Kerrville, Texas, in 1990. They have resided there for the last 34 years.

Sharon's favorite pastime activities included cooking and shopping. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Sharon is survived by her husband, Doug Schmidt; brother, Michael Booth of Palm Springs, Calif.; daughter, Cheryl Fritz; son-in-law, Kenneth Fritz; and her two grandchildren, Catherine and Edmund Fritz. She will be dearly missed by friends and family.

Jolie Ann Seeley passed away peacefully on March 12, 2025, in her home in Laguna Woods, California. She was 94 years old.

Jolie was born in St. Joseph, Missouri on September 27, 1930. Jolie was a true joy to her family, co-workers, and many friends. She had an infectious laugh and a beautiful smile for everyone she met. Jolie was a wonderful dancer



and danced regularly into her late 80s.

Her father, Clarence "Bud" Kilbey, was a professional musician in a traveling band. Her mother, Hazel, was the ticket seller. As the Depression deepened, being a member of a traveling band became an unsustainable career, particularly after Jolie was born. Bud was unable to land a job as a laborer, as he had the "soft hands" of a musician. Instead, he went to business school and learned shorthand, typing, and business management. In 1938, Bud accepted a position as Clerk Stenographer with the United States District Court in the Canal Zone. Jolie and her mother joined him shortly thereafter, when Jolie was 8 years old.

Jolie attended East Balboa Elementary School, Ancon Elementary School, Balboa Junior High School, Balboa High School, and Canal Zone College, graduating from BHS in 1948 and from CZC in 1950. Jolie received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Pittsburgh in 1961.

While at Canal Zone College, she met Ronald Seeley, and they were married in the Balboa Union Church in April 1951. The wedding reception was held at the Tivoli Hotel. Many years after they were married, they learned that they had both been attending a movie at Balboa Theater on December 7, 1941. The film was stopped, the house lights were turned on, and the theater manager walked onto the stage to announce that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor and that all patrons were to return to their homes immediately and await further instructions. Later, as a teenager, Jolie started her federal career as the movie box office cashier at that same Balboa Theater.

Her daughter, Laura Seeley, was born in Denver, Colorado, in 1952 and her son, Glenn Seeley, was born at Gorgas Hospital in the Canal Zone in 1954.

Jolie christened the tug *Paz* (Peace) at a ceremony held at Diablo Pier in 1984, and the Marine Director congratulated Jolie for "Bringing Peace to the Panama Canal." Jolie retired from the Panama Canal Commission as the Administrative Officer of the Office of Financial Management in 1989. She was awarded a Gold Key to the Locks as Master Administrative Officer from D.P. McAuliffe, the Chief Administrator of the Panama Canal Commission.

Shortly after she and Ron retired in 1989, they bought their first and only home in Laguna Woods, California. Jolie was heartbroken when Ron passed away only two years after their retirement. Friends and family told her to stay busy, and she followed their advice. She served as President of the College Club of Laguna Woods, belonged to an exercise group that went to lunch after every workout session and belonged to a Women's social club. Jolie loved to dance and belonged to at least two different dinner-dancing clubs, including a ballroom dancing club. Jolie loved theater and music and attended countless theatrical and musical productions with family and friends.

During her retirement, Jolie traveled all over the United

States and many parts of the world. For many years, she joined Laura and her husband's family in Maui for two weeks in May, where she recognized every flower, tree, and bush from her life in Panama. Jolie kept her passport current to join trips to Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Tahiti, Canada, Mexico, China, Europe, Argentina, and Turkey.

Jolie was a long-time member of the Panama Canal Society and thoroughly enjoyed attending countless Reunions in Florida over the past 50 years.

Jolie passed away less than a month after receiving a terminal diagnosis. Her three grandchildren, Stephanie Freberg (Austin, Texas), Nicholas Seeley (Santa Clarita, Calif.), and Evan Seeley (Rowlett, Texas) were able to visit with her one last time before her soul went home to God.

She is survived by her baby sister, Christine "Tina" Luken; daughter, Laura Rydell and her husband Richard; son, Glenn Seeley and his wife Christina (Efthimiadis); her grandchildren, Stephanie Freberg and her husband Garrett, Nicholas Seeley and his wife Holly, and Evan Seeley, and his wife Stacy; great-grandchildren, Hazel, Juliette, Elijah, and Abel Seeley, Lukas Freberg, Gavin and Gabriel Seeley; step-grandchildren, Bailey, Luke and Logan Holmes; and many nieces and nephews.

Jolie will be greatly missed by all who knew her. We hope there is a terrific dance band when she reunites with Ron, and they dance for joy forever!



Diane Jane "DJ" Lewis Sefton of Dallas, Texas, died on February 8, 2025, having completed the race set before her, and is now in the presence of her Lord Jesus following a 15-year battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Born in October of 1946 in Cincinnati, Ohio, Diane grew up an Air Force brat in Selma, Ala., Laredo, Texas, and the Panama Canal Zone, where she graduated from Balboa High School in 1964, with lifelong friends, including "the Chicas."

Diane earned a Bachelor of Arts in Interior Design from the University of Cincinnati in 1969. She moved to Dallas with several Kappa Kappa Gamma sisters to begin a successful career as a commercial space planner. She worked with architects Thomas E. Stanley and Pierce Lacey and Associates to design corporate headquarters, including local and national banks and Southwest Airlines, where she was integral in selecting their iconic color palette.

In 1971, Diane married John Sefton, whom she met on a quadruple date. In 1975, desiring to dedicate herself to raising their children Tiffany and Ty, she sacrificed her professional career. However, she remained active in Dallas Market Center events and freelanced on several projects, including Stonebriar Community Church. She also enjoyed working with friends as a part-time "Boutique Lady" at Stein Mart for 20 years.

Diane and John both came to faith in Christ on the same

day in 1978 at Fellowship Bible Church- an experience that profoundly shaped their lives. Diane was devoted to ministry. She co-led small Bible study groups in church and neighborhood alongside John. She served as Bible Study Fellowship discussion leader, Women's Ministry Director at Prestonwood Baptist Church, volunteer at Prestonwood Pregnancy Center, and deaconess at Stonebriar Community Church, where she led Women of Grace ("The Chuthers").

Diane had a smile that brightened every room, an infectious laugh, impeccable taste in clothing, accessories, and décor, and was stunningly beautiful, inside and out. She is dearly missed and fondly remembered, and we know we'll be with her in eternity.

Diane was preceded in death by her parents, George Taylor Lewis and Marjorie Miller Lewis. She is survived by her husband of 53 years, John Sefton, who cared for her unfailingly throughout Alzheimer's disease; daughter, Tiffany Sefton; son Ty (Kimberly) Sefton; grandchildren, Conrad Hamerman, Camille and Crew Sefton; brother, Pete (Helga) Lewis; and many cherished extended family members and friends.



Christopher Ann Bryant, aged 72, passed away on January 5, 2025, in Tucson, Arizona. Chris was born into a military family stationed in Yokohama, Japan, on December 21, 1952. She graduated from Balboa High School in 1970 when her father served in the Panama Canal Zone. No further information is available.



Lester Smith passed away February 26, 2025, at the age of 79, shortly after being diagnosed with ALS. He was at home with his family present.

Lester (Les) was born in Panama on October 15, 1945, and grew up in Curundu, Canal Zone, the tightly knit community he loved. After High School (BHS class of '63), he attended Canal Zone College and then transferred to the University of Miami. After college, Les entered the Air Force and married Andrea Byrd (BHS '65). While in the Air Force, they traveled extensively throughout Europe and the U.S. After his military service, he and his family returned to the Canal Zone in 1974, where he worked for the Panama Canal Company before leaving for the U.S. in 1981. He continued his civil service work in Louisiana, Texas, Colorado, and Georgia before retiring and moving to The Villages in Florida.

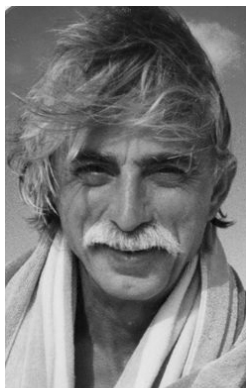
Les had a wonderful personality, loved joking, and al-

ways smiled. He also had an uncanny ability to diagnose car engine problems immediately. Les loved traveling, camping, the beach, and spending time with his family and friends. When you met Les, you made a friend for life. He has left an indelible mark on the hearts of all fortunate enough to know him.

He was a proud member of the Panama Canal Society. He was nearly always present at the Reunion, especially contributing to the joy of his Curundu friends in his community's Curundu Clubhouse suite. One year, he brought a young couple staying at the hotel to the Curundu suite after-party. He wanted his old friends to meet his new friends. He had them dancing and partying Zonian style until 3 am! They were awed by his youthful exuberance and witnessed the joy he brought to his Curundu friends. He stayed in touch with that young couple for all the years that followed.

Les is survived by his devoted daughter, Christine (Mike) Foster; his grandson, Jaenon (Kodell) Foster; and great-grandson, Issak Foster. He is also survived by his brother, Robert (BHS '62); sister-in-law, Carol Kapinos Smith (BHS '64); his sister, Terri (BHS '68); and multiple nieces and nephews. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Les was preceded in death by his loving wife and cherished companion of 50 years, Andrea; his precious daughter, Kimberly; beloved grandson, Walker Foster; his parents, Terry and Robert Smith; his brother, Jack (BHS '71); and his brother-in-law, Paul Flynn.



Captain **Henning Juel Spilling, Jr.**, passed peacefully on March 13, 2025, at the age of 76. Captain Henning, or simply "Captain" was loved and cherished by all who knew him.

Henning was preceded in death by his loving wife, Leighlove Caylor Spilling; his daughter, Katie Carter; grandson, Henning J. Spilling IV; his stepdaughters, Maryiah Spilling and Season Carter; and his parents,

Barbara Jones Spilling and Henning Juel Spilling Sr.

Henning leaves behind his loving daughter, Erika (Joe) Spilling Drouin, and son, Henning (Melissa) Juel Spilling III. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Camron Spilling, Nathan, Daniel, Austin, and Cora Drouin and Gage, Lexi and Rosemary Carter; great-grandchildren, Henning V, Freya, and Maryiah Spilling; his brothers Robert (Cinda) Spilling and John (Marilynn) Spilling and their families, and many other extended family and friends.

Born in 1948 in New Orleans, Louisiana, Henning lived a remarkable life. He left high school to become a professional diver and, soon after, proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. Henning demonstrated extraordinary courage and heroism and was awarded a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster, and other commendations for his bravery and valor.

Following his military service, he continued to serve

with distinction, becoming the youngest ship pilot in the Panama Canal, where he further showcased his leadership, dedication, and commitment to excellence. He went on to captain a supply ship in Alaska, supplying islands and other ships in the Bering Sea before retiring to the mountains of East Tennessee with his loving wife Leighlove.

Henning was deeply admired for his unwavering dedication to family and friends and his warm, generous spirit. Among the happiest and proudest moments of his life were the births of his children—Henning III, Erika, and Katie—and his marriage to his beloved Leighlove, which was celebrated on a beautiful beach in Florida and lasted for 25 years until her passing in 2022.

Throughout his life, Henning made a positive and often profound impact on those fortunate enough to know him. His remarkable leadership was evident from a young age, as he inspired family, friends, colleagues, and crew alike to strive toward their fullest potential. Henning had an extraordinary gift for bringing people together, always embracing life fully and ensuring everyone around him shared in the joy. He generously extended a helping hand to anyone in need, becoming a dependable source of support and kindness. Henning leaves behind a legacy defined by resilience, compassion, and boundless love.



Nathan Weade was born in the Panama Canal Zone. His brother Jason, sister Lynley, and Nate are 5th generation "Zonians."

Nate's childhood was full of fun and adventure. Panama was a tropical playground of oceans, lakes, rivers, and coastlines. The family attended a wonderful church alongside Wycliffe Bible Translators and missionary families and sometimes got to share in

their mission work. Nathan accepted Jesus Christ as Savior at an early age.

In 2006, a tragic truck accident left Nathan with severe cervical spine injuries. In 2013, surgery with two metal implants did nothing to relieve Nathan's ongoing struggle with chronic pain.

Nate was kind and compassionate, humble and generous. He was always willing to help his friends, neighbors, and even strangers at any time. Nathan was especially drawn to help people who suffered from mental or physical pain. He was truly "the good Samaritan" and a treasure to all who knew him. He was not afraid to touch the untouchables of society but humbled himself to help whenever he could. This gave Nate a sense of purpose that raised him above his chronic pain. Nathan's compassion towards others reflected his relationship with God.

Being mostly home-bound allowed Nate to educate himself on many subjects. He watched programs on the latest advances in space, science, AI, robotics, engineering, technology, medicine, world governments, music, and creative projects. Nate loved engaging in conversation on any variety of subjects. He was a wise problem-solver and had

a wonderful sense of humor. He could debate any political topic.

Nathan has left a void in this life. He fought the good fight and won because he was in a "win-win" situation. We take comfort in the fact that Nathan is with his Heavenly Father and no longer in pain. Nate, we can't wait to meet you at the gate.



Mary Michael Winn passed away on March 6, 2025. Named after her parents, Mary Michael Winn was born on October 20, 1945, in Margarita on the Atlantic (Caribbean) side of the Panama Canal Zone. She grew up with parents Mary Edmonia (Dignam) Brzezinski and Michael Stephen Brzezinski; her older brother Mike,

Jr., "Skip;" her older sister Patricia; and her two younger brothers Richard and James.

Known to almost everyone as "Mickey," Mary Michael and her siblings enjoyed playing in the backyard, where their father would graft orchids onto the mango tree and grow colorful hibiscus. Mickey loved tropical flowers, especially birds of paradise; her favorite color was green, and she enjoyed collecting seashells and driftwood. The family would go by ship every summer to New Orleans for vacation. Mickey attended St. Mary's Academy, an all-girls school in Colón, taught by European nuns, where she and her sister Patty were two of the only Americans. Mickey later attended public high school in the Canal Zone and graduated in 1963.

She attended Canal Zone Junior College, earning an Associate's degree in 1965. Then, at age 19, Mickey transferred to Spring Hill College, in Mobile, Alabama. It is here spotted Harlan Harbour Winn, III, the man whom she would marry four years later. Mickey and Harbour spent the next two summers living in Tlaxco, a small village in Tlaxcala, Mexico, leading a group of college student volunteers through the Conference on Inter-American Student Projects, a Peace Corps-like organization. Mickey and Harbour graduated from Spring Hill College in 1967 with Bachelor's degrees in English.

Mickey then enrolled at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, earning an MA in English in 1969, the same year she and Harbour would get married. They would celebrate 55 wedding anniversaries together.

Mickey and Harbour taught writing at the University of Houston. After taking several courses in cultural sensitivity there, Mickey was in one of the first cohorts of white teachers who "desegregated" Houston public schools – teaching English to a class of Black middle school students. In the fall of 1971, Mickey and Harbour moved to Eugene, where Mickey worked as a secretary at Travelers Insurance – thanks to her friendly personality, incredible typing speed, and expert shorthand. In 1972, after a flat tire en route to the hospital and a generous ride from a stranger, Mickey gave birth to their first child, Michelle Coogan Winn. In January 1975, Harbour accepted a teaching position at Okla-

homa City University. They welcomed their second child, Cristin Dignam Winn, in 1975 and four years later, in 1979, they welcomed their third child, Shawn Harbour Winn, into the family.

In summer 2005, the whole family took a memorable trip to Panama. It was the last trip they took together as a family of five, and soon thereafter, their children started having children of their own. Mickey and Harbour traveled as a couple once again, setting out on several more international adventures, including trips to Ireland, England, Germany, Japan, Taiwan, China, Thailand, Singapore, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Every year for the last decade, Mickey and Harbour have organized a family reunion near a national park or in another spectacular setting like the Oregon coast. Mickey made it to the reunion by Mt. Hood this past summer – her last.

In Oklahoma City, Mickey served for over a decade as a La Leche League leader. Mickey sold Discovery Toys and also volunteered as a Camp Fire leader. Mickey taught English composition at two or three colleges at a time – she was the proverbial freeway flyer, driving from OSU OKC and Oklahoma City Community College to Rose State and University of Central Oklahoma (UCO). Around 1990, Mickey enrolled at UCO to earn her secondary teaching credential. She took a job teaching English at Northwest Classen High School (1997-2012). There, she co-founded a college club with her colleague and friend Becky Feldman Standridge – to support students applying to college, and every year, she would hold a fundraiser selling Mardi Gras beads to raise money for scholarship, and organize raffles at Back-to-School-Night. For years, she also taught English as a Second Language (ESL) to Spanish-speaking immigrants at St. Patrick's Church, where she was elected to serve on the parish council twice. She also volunteered as an usher on Sunday mornings.

When she retired after 20 years in Oklahoma City public schools, Mickey became active in the Oklahoma Retired Educators Association (OREA) and again raised scholarship funds for student teachers. She also volunteered at Cleveland Elementary School while continuing to teach high schoolers part-time in concurrent enrollment courses throughout the city until 2019. Mickey took great joy in becoming a grandmother with each of her seven grandchildren. In 2019, Mickey and Harbour took their two oldest grandchildren on a trip down the Amazon River in Peru, creating lasting memories – from a monkey rifling through Mickey's hair to a large scorpion by her bed one night that she single-handedly took out by slapping it with her slipper.

Mickey was preceded in death by her parents, Mary and Michael, and her older brother, Skip.

Mickey is survived by her husband Harbour who has been by her side faithfully across six decades; her three children, Michelle (Olison Baptiste), Cristin (Chris Reyes), and Shawn (Alison Winn); her seven grandchildren, Gavin, Sienna, Savanna, Braelyn, Harbour, Celina, and Michael; three of her siblings, Patty, Dick, and Jimmy; In-laws, Ann, David, and Barbara, as well as Paris, Beau and Ashley and Jane; and nieces, nephews, and cousins too numerous to name.