

WITH DEEP SORROW



Joseph (Jay) Augustine Barrett, entered into his next life on June 29, 2025. His wife, Dianne Chrismer, was by his side.

Jay's early years were unique as he was born and raised in Colon, The Republic of Panama, on September 24, 1943, to parents Joseph and Ethel Bialkowski. Growing up in the Canal Zone with three siblings and the friendships he developed was something Jay cherished.

After graduation from Cristobal High School, Jay received an Industrial Engineering degree from Texas Tech, then became a Naval Supply Officer during the Vietnam war. Later, while working in San Francisco he obtained his masters degree. Eventually settling in Denver, Colo., he became the owner of Rocky Mountain Packaging and built the company into a highly successful business over 30+ years. Known for his honesty and fairness, he kept many of the same employees for years. Some remain very good friends to this day.

Jay was a gentleman, as well as a gentle soul, charming, generous, loyal, and fun-loving with an open-minded spirit. He had beautiful blue eyes, and the thickest head of hair! Later in life, men would look our way, and Jay would say "Dianne, that guy is looking at you." And I would reply, "no he's not, he's looking at your hair!" The guy, of course, had none!

Although known as a quiet man, he loved nothing more than socializing with friends over a great meal and favorite cocktail. He gathered friends from all walks of life. A man of few words, Jay had that rare ability to listen to others, and spoke when necessary. Friends still comment on his sly, dry sense of humor!

He loved baseball (Coors Field and the CO Rockies); found comfort quietly reading a book or swimming laps for an hour. A scratch golfer, he was also a top-notch duplicate bridge player, but always enjoyed a crazy game of "hand and foot" with friends. Although never having had a dog when growing up, the bond he formed with Tanner, their 45lb Benji mutt, tore at his heart when goodbyes had to be said. He never wanted another dog; losing Tanner just hurt too much.

His passion in life was sailing his sailboat, the Chinookwind, whenever possible. An excellent sailor, he was happiest when on the water, and he especially loved sailing in the BVI's. In addition to world travel, he and Dianne made the choice to become Florida snowbirds in 2009, making the move from Denver to Venice permanent in 2020.

Jay loved life, and his departure leaves a void for all those he loved and touched, especially his family. He relished time spent and the memories created with his two children, Samantha and Martin, from his first marriage to Mary, as well as his three grandchildren whenever possible. He was a caring father/grandfather and had great pride in all of their incredible achievements.

Jay is predeceased by his parents and his sister, Charlotte. He is survived by his first wife, Mary, current wife, Dianne, his sister Beth, brother Charles (Ceil), daughter Samantha (Ryan), son Martin, and grandchildren Emily, Andrew, and Landon.

Jay will be buried at sea. We say farewell, and may

he have safe travels and a new adventure. For those who would like to leave something in Jay's memory, please consider DOGS, Inc. (aka Southeastern Guide Dogs), 4210 77th St. SE, Palmetto, FL 34221.



Robert F. Boyd, Jr., passed away at his home in Boquete, Chiriqui Province, Panama, on June 18, 2025. He is survived by his wife, Mari, sisters Diane and Nancy, many nieces and nephews, and other family members. Among those who miss him greatly are Orion and Rafiki, his beloved pets.

Rob was born in New York City on August 24, 1944, to Robert F. and Mary Elizabeth Boyd. He came to Panama with his parents right after World War II, living in Colon. When Robert Sr. began to work for the Canal, they moved to the Pacific side.

Growing up in the Canal Zone, Rob was a Sea Scout, paddled in the very early ocean-to-ocean cayuco races, flew to Volcan in a DC-3 to attend Boy Scout Camp at San Benito, shipped out, crewed on yachts, ran behind DDT trucks, and fought in Christmas tree bonfire wars.

He was off to the Navy after finishing at Balboa High School in the early 60's with his happiest time in the Navy spent on the USS Little Rock in the Mediterranean. From the Navy, he went to Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands as a contract radar technician in the early years of the Ballistic Missile Program and, in 1973, returned to Panama and went to work on the Panama Canal radar system, retiring from the canal in the late 1990's.

Rob loved to travel and was a master at organizing many amazing trips across the globe. After they married in 1989, Mari shared his love of travel; they had many adventures and many wonderful stories to tell.

Rob and Mari built their beautiful home with its extraordinary garden in Boquete in the late 90's, when Boquete was still a sleepy little town. When Boquete was discovered and put on the map as a retirement destination, Rob and Mari's newspaper, The Boquete Times, helped to orient those who came from all over to settle there.

Rob was not only a pioneer in Boquete. Around 1995, he and Mari had a great idea – no one was promoting Bocas del Toro which, at the time, was even sleepier than Boquete. Their Bocas Dive Shop, next to the ferry slip in Bocas Town, was the beginning of tourism there.

Rob was unique and memorable, so enjoyable to be with, he was smart, resourceful, and an excellent conversationalist; he seemed to know so much about so many things. He treasured his life in the Canal Zone and Panama, and was a great source of information about their history. He is and will always be sorely missed. Rob was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Leticia Garcia Byrum, of Ft. Belvoir, Virginia, passed away peacefully on August 15, 2025, at the age of 66, after a brief and courageous battle with cancer.

Letty was born on October 11, 1958, in Ancon, Canal Zone. Letty was the youngest of Ferdinand and Leticia Garcia's five children. She spent her childhood years in Curundu, Canal Zone, and cherished the many life-long friendships and memories that she made there. She graduated from Balboa High School in 1976, where she was a cheerleader and also played on the girls' softball and basketball teams.

After high school, Letty attended Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1980. Following graduation, she returned to Panama and began working for the Department of Defense with SOUTHCOM at Ft. Clayton in a variety of roles. She valued her relationships with her colleagues there, many of whom became close friends. During this time, she met James Douglas "Jay" Byrum, who was assigned to Panama with the U.S. Army. Jay became the love of her life and her greatest supporter on life's journey. The two were married on February 22, 1998, at the Ft. Clayton Chapel. By then, Letty had completed about 20 years of federal government service in Panama.

As a military spouse, Letty accompanied Jay to Carlisle, Penn., and throughout many of his assignments. In 2003, while stationed in Hanau, Germany, they welcomed their son, James Anthony, who was their most incredible pride and joy. She was a loving and devoted mother, remaining wholeheartedly committed to her family during Jay's deployments. While living in Hanau and later Heidelberg, Germany, she enjoyed traveling, shopping for Polish pottery, and visiting the numerous flea markets and Christkindlmarkts.

In 2009, the family moved to Ft. Mead, Maryland, and later in 2012 to Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. During these years, Letty was an active volunteer at her son's school, at the Ft. Belvoir Community Chapel, and a passionate and selfless member of the American Legion #176 in Springfield, Virginia.

Letty never knew a stranger. She treated everyone as though they were already friends. Her kindness, warm smile, and vibrant personality were a bright shining light to all who knew her.

Letty is survived by her husband of 27 years, Jay; son, James; sister, Mary Hebert (Steve); brother, Fredrick Garcia (Sandy); brother, Anthony Garcia (Berta); sister-in-law, Valeri Garcia; stepdaughter, Crystelyn (Brian); and mother-in-law, Chris Klafs.

Letty was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Daniel Garcia.

Fred John Fox, age 75, passed away on May 19, 2025. He was born on July 19, 1949, in Panama City, Panama, to George and Rhonda Fox.

Fred was raised in the Canal Zone and graduated from Balboa High School in 1967. Fred completed his Apprenticeship in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration. He worked for the Panama Canal Company before starting his



career with the Federal Aviation Administration. He worked for the FAA in the Canal Zone before transferring to Austin in 1979, and then finishing his career in Corpus Christi. He retired after more than 35 years.

Fred was a devoted Father, Beach PawPaw, Son, Brother, Cousin, and Friend. He found joy in life's simple pleasures—spending time at the beach, watching the Houston Astros and Texas Tech Baseball, and most of all, being with his family. His daughters meant the world to him, and his grandkids made him so proud. He also loved the new role of great-grandfather. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Fred is preceded in death by his parents, George and Rhonda Fox; his brother, George J. Fox; his nephew, George M. Fox; and his great-niece Gabrielle Hunter.



Kerner Eugene Fraenheim

He was born on October 30, 1944, in Ancon, Canal Zone, Panama. Gene was the second sibling of four (Lola, Lynne, and Neil) born to Kerner and Foy Fraenheim. During his 80 years on this earth, he built a life full of meaning, family, and quiet strength. On December 21, 1968, he married the love of his life, the beautiful and spirited Carol Lynne Fraenheim (Lynne). Together they built not just a home, but a sanctuary, one filled with love, and a healthy dose of comedy and sarcasm.

Gene grew up surrounded by family and friends in the Panama Canal Zone. He loved sports, specifically baseball and golf. Gene was an accomplished baseball player at Balboa High School. Gene attended Canal Zone Junior College before finishing his undergraduate and master's degree in accounting from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Gene was a devoted Tar Heel fan and alumni throughout his life. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Upon graduation, Gene achieved his certified public accountant (CPA) designation. After a short stint as an officer in the Army, Gene started his public accounting career as a staff auditor in the Houston, Texas office of Arthur Andersen & Co. Gene's career thrived during his tenure in Houston and later in Charlotte, NC. Gene retired in 2001 as the Managing Partner of the Carolina's. Gene was known as a great leader of the firm and a mentor to many young professionals during his longstanding career at Arthur Andersen.

Gene was the proud father of Darrell (Michelle), Leslie (Corey), Christi (Shannon), and Greg (Kristina). Each of them carries his quiet strength, his dry wit, and maybe even a bit of that stubborn streak. But the real sparkle in Gene's eye came with the next generation — his

grandchildren: Courtney, Natalie, Elise, Mallory, Maddy, Thomas, Charlie, James, Mason, Colton, and Blake. Gene loved his kids, but he REALLY loved his grandkids.

Gene was a man who was many things: a devoted husband, loving father, doting grandfather, amazing sibling, loyal friend, a committed and admired CPA, and Executive, as well as a passionate golfer. Gene battled cancer for over ten years with grace, dignity, determination and with a smile on his face as to not worry his loved ones. Gene was a determined fighter to the very end.



Marilyn McCarthy Garcia, the teacher who kept a lion and mastered the game of Bridge, died at 88.

Mrs. Garcia died peacefully in her sleep on July 12 in Daytona Beach, Fla. Over a life that spanned continents and careers, she combined seemingly disparate elements: the discipline of a military family, the precision of a science educator, the grace of an accomplished equestrian, and the tender patience required to rehabilitate wild creatures. Each pursuit revealed another facet of a woman who approached life with both rigor and wonder.

Born Marilyn McCarthy on Sept. 10, 1936, in Electric Mills, Miss., a lumber town distinguished by America's first fully electrified sawmill, she grew up steeped in a tradition of service that bordered on the heroic. Her father, Dr. Alphonsus Melvin McCarthy, landed on Normandy on D-Day, operated on French Resistance fighters outside Paris, and earned the Croix de Guerre with Star of Vermeil, one of France's highest military honors. Her mother, Sue Yarrish McCarthy, was a nurse who devoted herself to raising the family. After the war, they relocated to Daytona Beach in 1946, where he revolutionized prostate surgery with his invention of the Stern-McCarthy resectoscope, and established Florida's first blood bank in 1948, which remained the state's only one for 30 years.

Her brother, Brigadier General James Russell McCarthy, flew more than 7,000 hours in military aircraft and led the largest B-52 raid in history during Operation Linebacker II over Hanoi in December 1972, earning the Air Force Cross. This same fierce dedication to service would manifest differently in Marilyn, and later in her son Charles, a decorated veteran who would return to Daytona Beach with his wife Cristina to care for her in her final years.

Against this backdrop of extraordinary service, young Marilyn forged her own path. Valedictorian of Seabreeze High School in 1954, she attended Georgetown University's nursing school, where she discovered her gift for making complex science accessible. This talent would define much of her life.

In 1958, she married Dr. Carlos A. Garcia at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Georgetown. When the couple moved to Panama in 1964, where Dr. Garcia would eventually become the country's Surgeon General, Marilyn transformed herself once again. She earned a master's degree in science education from Stetson University and began teaching seventh-grade life science at Currundu Junior High School in the Panama Canal Zone.

Mrs. Garcia became legendary for her hands-on teaching methods. She brought specimens from her husband's laboratory for dissections, teaching students anatomy with cow hearts and pig brains. She'd carry exotic plants from her garden into the classroom, and sometimes there'd be a sloth hanging from her shoulder. Her students never knew what would happen next. When her husband brought home a lion cub, Marilyn simply made room for it. Her home in the Republic of Panama already housed a parrot

named Daffy who sang outside her bedroom for 50 years, a companionable owl, various sloths, and a rotating cast of white-faced monkeys. But it was the lion, however briefly, that her students remembered decades later when recounting tales of their beloved science teacher who could make seventh-grade life science feel like an adventure.

Multiple Teacher of the Year awards testified to her impact, but it was her after-school science clubs and patient tutoring that revealed her true dedication. In the small, tight-knit community of the Canal Zone, where she taught the children of military families and Panama Canal employees, Mrs. Garcia became a beloved fixture, known for going far beyond the standard curriculum to inspire a love of science.

Her home in Panama became legendary for its resemblance to a benevolent zoo. Like her father, who saved lives on the battlefield, Mrs. Garcia became the Canal Zone's Dr. Doolittle, with students bringing her injured creatures and orphaned animals to rehabilitate. The animals weren't mere pets; they were rehabilitated creatures. Each had a name, a story, and often, surprisingly sophisticated accommodations.

After retiring to Daytona Beach with her husband in 1990, Mrs. Garcia faced his loss in 1993. In her grief, she discovered competitive Bridge. With the same intensity she'd once applied to teaching cellular biology, she studied the game's intricacies. By 2012, she'd achieved Emerald Life Master status, held by fewer than 1% of the nation's competitive bridge players.

In the late 1990s, she found her second great love in James "Spike" Lay, a retired CPA who managed the Daytona Beach Bridge Club and held the rank of Grand Life Master. Together they circled the globe, tournament by tournament, until he died in 2022.

But perhaps nothing captured Mrs. Garcia's essence better than her relationship with Daffy, the yellow-crowned Amazon parrot she'd rescued as a chick in Panama in 1972. For five decades, the bird lived just outside her bedroom, greeting each day with songs and chatter. Daffy spent much of the time riding on her shoulder or nestled in her arms.

She is survived by her children Ginger and Jim Oliver, Charlie and Cristina Garcia, Colleen Bowe, and Brian Garcia; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. She remained a faithful member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, drawing strength from her devotion to the Holy Spirit.



Dorothy Rowley Gerhart, 91, a retired accounts manager and Red Cross volunteer, died July 22nd at her Greenspring residence in Springfield. She was a long-time resident of the Panama Canal Zone and various locations in Germany, until she moved with her family to Silver Spring in 1983 and subsequently to Greenspring Retirement Community in 2015, following the passing of her husband, James. The medical staff at Greenspring confirmed her death.

Dorothy Joan Rowley was born in Jamaica, Long Island. She moved with her parents as a child to the Canal Zone, where her father was employed as a tugboat master with the Panama Canal Company, Marine Division. She graduated from Cristobal High School in the Canal Zone in 1951 and later attended Canal Zone College. While in high school, she served as a Worthy Advisor for the Cristobal Chapter of the Order of Rainbows for Girls.

She served in the Navy, including during the Korean War, from 1952 to 1955, as a Yeoman 3rd Class at

the North Island Naval Air Station in San Diego. Her duties were as secretary to the station's Operations Officer. She returned to the Canal Zone in 1956 and worked in the field of budget and accounting management with Army units there until 1970. These included the Inter-American Geodetic Survey (IAGS), the Tropic Test Center, the US Army Southern Command Comptroller, and the 470th Military Intelligence Group.

In 1968, she married James Gerhart, an Army civilian working in the Canal Zone, while on a tour to Costa Rica. She subsequently traveled with him to overseas assignments in West Berlin and Heidelberg, Germany; then a second tour in the Canal Zone, and a Washington area assignment in the 1980s, when they established residence in Silver Spring and she worked as an office manager for an architectural firm in Silver Spring until their next move to Heidelberg, Germany during the 1990's. While in Heidelberg, she worked for a communications contractor for the Army.

During their second tour in the Canal Zone, she worked as an accounts manager for the Panama Canal Commission (formerly Panama Canal Company) Accounting Division. She received a civil service retirement in 1983.

Mrs. Gerhart accumulated over ten years of service as a Red Cross volunteer at the Army Hospital in West Berlin and the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. She also volunteered with the Armed Forces Hostess Association (AFHA) at the Pentagon and the White House Correspondence Center.

Her memberships included All Saints Church in Chevy Chase, the Army Officers' Wives Club of the Greater Washington Area (AOWCGWA) at Ft. Myer, the Order of the Eastern Star, and the American Legion. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Her first marriage, to Robert Powers, ended in divorce. She was predeceased by her second husband, James Gerhart, after which she relocated to the Greenspring Retirement Community in Springfield, Virginia, where she remained until her passing.

Survivors include her son from her first marriage, Kenneth Gerhart of Arlington; two children from her second marriage, Suzanne (Sean) George of Springfield and Brian (Olga) Gerhart of Washington, and four grandchildren.



Joyce Ann Hanson, 81, of Franklin, Virginia, and Suwannee, Florida, was called home to the Lord on August 15, 2025, in Gainesville, Florida, surrounded by family.

Born to the late Bill and Louise Heath, Joyce dedicated her life to faith, family, and education. As a high school English teacher and later as a librarian with the Department of Defense Dependents Schools, she spread her love of literature, language, and learning, inspiring students in the Panama Canal Zone, Seoul, South Korea, and Mannheim, Germany over the course of four decades. In her retirement, she helped reconnect Franklin High School's Class of 1962 and coordinate reunions.

Joyce was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Dave Hanson; daughters Rejoyce Lunceford (spouse Rob Lunceford) and Heather Hanson (spouse Greg Branom); and her cherished grandchildren: Zachary Lunceford, Douglas Lunceford, Amelia Lunceford (fiancé Dakota Ludwick), Ryan Lunceford, Alex Branom, and Presley Larson (spouse Nicholas Larson). She is also survived by her

great-grandchildren, Daniel, Opal, Phoenix, Ezekiel, and Ari Larson, who brought her immense joy.

She was a faithful attendee of the Congregational Christian Church in Franklin, Virginia, and worshiped in several other churches wherever her travels took her throughout her life. Outside of her professional and church life, Joyce enjoyed reading, researching genealogy, and working jigsaw puzzles. She was also known for her sweet tooth and her annual New Year's resolution to eat chocolate every day.



Carmen Teresa Herberg (Gajesk), 90, of Tucson, Arizona, passed away peacefully on August 12, 2025. She was a loving Mother, Grandmother, and Mother-in-Law. Carmen was born in Panama City, Panama, on January 2, 1935. Her 45-year nursing career was one of Carmen's proudest achievements, particularly during her tenure at Gorgas US Army Hospital in Ancon, Panama, within the Panama Canal Zone.

She relocated to Tucson in 1987 at the request of her son, Peter, to join him as he pursued his law degree. She continued to work in Tucson at the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Center until full retirement in 2000.

Carmen (Nonie) enjoyed her time raising her granddaughter, Eva, throughout her school years, and as a result, she became the grandmother figure to many of her friends. She leaves a huge hole in our hearts and will be dearly missed by all who knew her. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Carmen is preceded in death by her father and mother, Edwin and Herminia Gajeski, as well as two brothers, Edwin and Eric. She is survived by her son, Peter, and granddaughter, Eva Herberg.



Miriam S. Hirschl passed away peacefully at home at the remarkable age of 105 years, leaving behind a legacy of love, wisdom, and resilience. Born in New York City, Miriam's journey through life touched many, and her vibrant spirit will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Miriam's early years in New York were those of a young lady who was curious and resourceful. She earned a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in education for the blind, unusual for a woman at that time. It was at Beth El Hospital that she met Dan, her beloved husband and the love of her life for 57 years. Together, they embarked on a lifelong adventure, beginning with an idyllic chapter in the Panama Canal Zone. While Dan cared for generations of children as a pediatrician, Miriam passionately dedicated herself to education, becoming a cherished teacher to many. Their partnership was very close and loving, lasting until Daniel's passing 26 years ago.

After 33 wonderful years in the Canal Zone, Miriam and Dan relocated to Sun City West in 1982. True to her nature, Miriam continued teaching, nurturing young minds, and inspiring colleagues well into her later years.

Miriam is survived by two loving sons, Jeffrey of Gilbert, Arizona (Melissa) and Ronald of Ann Arbor, Michigan (Barb), as well as eight grandchildren and 13

great-grandchildren, who were her absolute pride and joy. She was predeceased by her cherished daughter Janice (Stuart), whose memory remained dear to Miriam's heart.

The stories, values, and unconditional love Miriam shared live on through her family, each of whom carries a piece of her remarkable spirit forward. Those who knew Miriam remember her as being quick with a smile, generous with her time, and passionate about education and family above all else. Her life, full of adventure, teaching, and love, serves as an enduring inspiration. She was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to Temple Beth Shalom in Sun City, Arizona, or the Panama Canal Museum at the University of Florida in memory of Miriam and Daniel Hirschl.



Martin (Marty) Richard Hoffman passed away on May 22, 2025. He was born on November 3, 1941, and as a young elementary school child, Marty learned a life-long lesson: it's fun to make others happy. His florist mother often sent him out to deliver bouquets and remembered the joy he inwardly felt when someone opened the door, with a huge smile, to receive

the bouquet.

Marty's life up until college was spent in the pastoral small town of Madison, Minn., at a time when children rode their bikes around town to find a baseball game or to create their own games in the park, where his grandfather had landscaped and planted Norwegian blue firs and stately cedars. (Sometimes, the Police were called for their antics!)

After dropping out of the University of Minnesota after the first semester, he went home and worked for his parents, Solveig and O.G., at the nursery. A life-changing call came from Jiggs Westergard, the basketball coach from Texas Lutheran University, who asked if Marty would be interested in playing basketball for them on a full scholarship. Marty said he'd be there the next day. He packed a few things in a cardboard box, got on a bus, and arrived in Seguin, Texas, in the midst of Category 4 Hurricane Carla.

At college, he met his future wife, Beverly Kiel, whom he married in 1966. Both taught in underprivileged schools in Seguin, Texas. In a recent visit to Seguin, several students Marty taught remembered how he made a basketball court outside, bought some balls, and the kids had a new activity than sliding down a hill on newspaper near a dump.

After getting his Master's in Administrative Credentials at Southwest Texas University, Marty and Beverly moved to Panama in 1968 and taught for the U.S.-accredited Panama Canal schools and Department of Defense schools in the Canal Zone. He taught physical education before becoming a principal in both elementary and high schools. As an elementary principal, he sometimes wanted to free up time for his staff, so he'd take all 300 students into the outdoor gym for 30 minutes of games or singing.

Both children, Scott and Allison, were born in the Canal Zone. Life in Panama meant gorgeous beaches, swimming and fishing in Gatun Lake, forays into the jungle

for birding or catching butterflies and bugs, countless sporting events, refereeing football and basketball games, and, best of all, forming deep friendships, treasured still.

In 1996, a second life-changing event for Marty and Beverly was their retirement to Sequim, Wash., a place of repose and beauty they never took for granted. Marty was a member at Sunland Golf Club and served on the board, a member of the Strait Men Barbershop Chorus/quartet, and served as president for several years, and learned to play pickleball. He especially loved playing with his granddaughters.

During his time in Sequim, his son Scott married his life partner, Nichole, and they have daughters Nevach and Lily. His daughter, Allison, also married her love, Doug Hastings, and they have two daughters, McKenna and Kendall. Marty enjoyed being around his older sister, Sara Peterson, a Sequim resident, and also had a special bond with his younger sister, Susan Strey, and her husband, Fred. He loved staying in touch with his nieces and nephews, the children of his two deceased brothers: Ollie and James.

Marty's life in Sequim was full of crabbing, boating, golfing, pickleball, camping with granddaughters, and poker with friends. Two community projects captured his heart: for over 15 years, he loved working with Healthy Families (supporting victims of abuse and violence) by supplying a household of furniture and goods for victims moving into new housing, helped by his hard-lifting male friends and 8 donated storage sheds of donated goods. The second was Holiday Lane, decorating the 4-mile stretch of Diamond Point with holiday decorations, including Santa in a sleigh. About 50 Diamond Pointers helped each year with that project for over 15 years.

He always saved the biggest part of his huge heart for his children, their spouses, and his four treasured granddaughters, and, of course, his bride of 58 years, tucking her in every night and setting out her teacup for the next morning. His Spirit Animal, the eagle, will soar in his family's lives.



Ana Maria Telechea Kaufer (Anita) passed away on June 19, 2019. Anita was born in Colon, Panama, on October 24, 1934. She lived in the Panama Canal Zone for 46 years and in Tampa, Florida, for 38 years.

She was married to Theodore Louis Kaufer, Sr., for 47 years. They had four children: Victoria Garrison of San Jose, Calif., Sandra Kaufer Severson of Lutz, Fla., Norine Kaufer-Smith of Healdsburg, Calif., and Theodore Louis Kaufer, Jr. of Temple Terrace, Fla. She had three grandsons, one granddaughter, and one great-granddaughter. She was active in the Lightfoot Senior Center. She enjoyed socializing, dancing, entertaining, playing cards, and bingo. She loved being with friends and family the most.

Guillermo Antonio Payne, 63, danced into the arms of Jesus on May 15, 2025.

"El Oso," was a radiant soul—full of laughter, rhythm, and boundless love. Known as the life of every party, he could light up a room with a joke, a smile, or a spontaneous dance. He truly lived a life that showed others



that joy is a gift from God, and he shared that joy freely with everyone blessed to know him. Guillermo was a loving son, brother, spouse, father, grandfather, friend, and a beacon of light to all who knew him. Born in the Canal Zone on August 6, 1961, he lived a life marked by a joyful heart. Whether leading a celebration, through a kind word, a helping hand, or dancing in joy, he lived out Psalm 30:11—"You turned my mourning into dancing."

He is survived by his loving mother, Elda Sanchez Payne; his daughters, Ashley and Victoria; Sister-in-law, Aleni; grandchildren, Tausa'afia, Akeakamai, and Coral; three brothers, Jose, Luis and Victor; sister, Pragedis; SIL, Laura; BIL, Steve; a former spouse and cherished lifelong friend, Monique and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

He was preceded by his father, Guillermo C. Payne; beloved uncles, Luis Antonio (Lucho) and Eduardo (Tato); and precious granddaughter, Salamasina. He was a member of the Panama



Fuqua of Billings, and Samantha Fuqua of Oregon, along with many nieces, nephews, in-laws, and friends. She was preceded in death by her sister, Patricia Shiavo.

Barbara was born July 28, 1948, in Springfield, Tennessee, the fourth child of Jane Evelyn (Turpin) Fuqua and Steve M. Fuqua. She lived her first five years in Kentucky and Japan (where her early talking included a mix of Japanese and English), and in 1953, the family moved to the Panama Canal Zone, where she grew up. She graduated from Balboa High School in 1966, and after a semester at the Canal Zone Community College, she moved to Texas in 1967.

Barbara and David met in Midland, Texas. After they were married, they lived in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Rangoon (Burma - now Yangon, Myanmar), and Singapore before returning to the U.S. and settling in Billings. She returned to school and earned her nursing degree at MSU-Billings in 2002. She was empathetic and enjoyed caring for others.

Barbara loved horses and riding, and cared deeply for all her cats and dogs. She also enjoyed hanging out on the beach during the 26 trips she took with David to Cozumel, Mexico. She was the beloved Aunt of all her nieces and nephews, welcoming them in her home as well as traveling regularly to visit them in Alaska and North Carolina. Barbara had a bubbly, positive outlook on life, which reflected in the bright colors and patterns she liked to wear.



Patricia Delamar (Vowell) Ridenhour, age 80, of Hiddenite, passed away on April 27, 2025, at the Taylorsville House.

Patricia was born January 3, 1945, in Ancon, Panama Canal Zone, Panama, the daughter of the late Carl Dawson Delamar and Nora Lee Harrington Delamar.

Patricia graduated from Durham High School in 1963, Croft Business School in 1964, and Lenoir-Rhyne in 1989. She taught at Alexander County and Caldwell County School Systems from 1976 until 2006. She was a former member of Rocky Springs United Methodist Church and is now at Reformation Lutheran.

Patricia grew up in Durham, N.C., where her first job was as a candy stripper at Duke Hospital. She loved Duke sports and teaching her students. She also loved to travel and learning her family genealogy.

Including her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, Clyde "Wesley" Vowell Jr., and her second husband, Rev. David "Dave" Efrid Ridenhour; her daughter, Janice Maureen Vowell; her brother, Carl Delamar, Jr.; and her close friend, who was like a sister, Catherine Walker.

Those left to cherish and honor Pat's memories include: her son, Christopher Wesley Vowell (Melissa Carson Vowell); her brother, Bill Delamar (Linda); her sister-in-law, Kathie; her nephew, Warren; and her niece, Jenna.



Barbara Fuqua Robertson, 76 of Billings, passed away on April 11, 2025.

Barbara is survived by her husband, David, of 51 years. She is also survived by her siblings Terry Fuqua (Mary Deheck) of North Carolina, Stephanie (Alex) Hinek of North Carolina, Suzanne Fuqua (Jeff Robinson) of Alaska, Philip



Jeffrey Scott, 64, of Bruceville-Eddy, passed away peacefully on July 22, 2024, due to natural causes. He was born on May 28, 1960, in Bossier City, Louisiana, to Nancy Fillman Scott and Kenneth Scott. Jeff spent a significant part of his childhood in the Panama Canal Zone and graduated from Balboa High School in 1979, where he was known as "Ziggy" to many of his friends and classmates.

After high school, Jeff pursued his education at Texas State Technical Institute, earning an associate's degree in electrical power in 1982. He continued his academic journey at Texas A&M University, graduating in 1988 with a degree in electrical engineering. During his studies, he maintained a rigorous schedule, dedicating seven days a week to his education while working part-time at a car rental agency, often allowing himself only Friday evenings off.

Jeff began his career at Lower Colorado River Authority as a technician after graduating from TSTI, later moving to Brazos Electric Cooperative in Waco, Texas, where he embarked on a 29-year tenure that culminated in his role as System Technical Superintendent.

In 1983, Jeff met Susan Scoggins in Austin, Texas, while working for LCRA. They married in 1986 and remained together until 1992. In 1993, Jeff met Tracy Wallace in Temple, Texas. They married in 1995 and were together until 2015. Jeff and Tracy had two children, Tyler Scott and Austin Scott.

Jeff had a deep passion for hands-on projects, whether tinkering with cars or engaging in other hobbies. He loved attending classic car shows, proudly displaying his prized 1968 Valkyrie. An avid bicyclist, Jeff competed in races with his sons and enjoyed camping trips with his family and friends. His adventurous spirit extended to

mastering the unicycle, which he delighted in demonstrating to others. Jeff will be remembered for his quirkiness, his unconventional approach to life, his ability to make us smile, and above all, his love and appreciation for those he knew which will stay with us forever.

Jeff was preceded in death by his father, Kenneth Scott; his brother, Michael Scott; and his granddaughter, Jade Scott. He is survived by his mother, Nancy Scott; his brothers, Thomas Scott and Randolph Scott; his sons, Tyler Scott and Austin Scott; and his grandchildren, Reece Alejandro, Delaney Scott, and Aurora Scott. Jeff was a member of the Panama Canal Society.



Barry Jon Seldon, 75, of Dallas, Texas, died on November 15, 2024, after an extended illness.

Barry was born on June 14, 1949, in Georgia, and spent his childhood in the Panama Canal Zone before moving to Panama City, Fla., to reside with his grandparents, Pascuale "Pete" and Floda Monaco. He graduated from Bay High in

Panama City and went on to get his undergraduate degree at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Barry completed master's-level work in Political Science and Economics at Florida State University and earned his PhD in Economics from Duke University.

Barry taught economics for eight years at Ohio University before moving to Richardson, Texas, where he served as Professor of Economics and Political Economy at the University of Texas at Dallas, specializing in Transfer Pricing and Antitrust studies. He and his former wife, Wendy, raised their son, Mike, in Richardson and spent many hours cheering him on in all the sports he participated in.

After his retirement, Barry moved to the beloved country of his childhood, Panama, where he enjoyed spending time with friends and pursuing his love of Latin dances. He returned to the United States in 2015 to be closer to his family, as his health was in decline.

Barry will be remembered for his intelligence, work ethic, quick wit, and passion for those he loved. He was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

Barry is survived by son, Mike Seldon (Brittany) of Simpsonville, Ky., and four grandchildren, Heidi Broderick an Hunter Cooper and Cassidy Seldon; brother, Louis Seldon (Suzette) of Keller, Texas; sister, Debbie Stefanik (Mark) of North Richlan Hills, Texas; cousin, Pamela Ann Monaco-Trompeter of Panama City Beach, Fla.; and several nieces

and nephews. His family also included friends Yen Huynh of Plano, Texas, and his adopted Panamanian sister, Oraida de Mendez, as well as Tita Sambrano. Barry was preceded in death by his parents, Louis and Adelaide Seldon.



Theadora "Thea" Smith, beloved wife, aunt, sister, and friend, passed away on July 18, 2025, in Portland, Maine, at the age of 91, following a lengthy illness.

Born in September of 1933, in Melbourne, Australia, the second of three children. Thea grew up in a tight-knit Greek Orthodox family, with whom she remained close throughout her life, despite living on the other side of the world for

much of it. Thea left her homeland after meeting the love of her life, George E. Smith, in the late 1950s on board a merchant ship, where she was a passenger and he was serving as an officer. In 1967, after spending the first years of their marriage based in George's home state of Maine, they moved to the Panama Canal Zone when George became a Panama Canal Pilot. They would spend the next 30 years living in Panama (Gatun and Balboa) and vacationing in Maine until George retired in 1997.

Anyone who knew Thea will remember her passion for dogs, particularly the Welsh Corgis that never left her side and who were treasured members of her family. Thea rarely had fewer than three or four Corgis in her care, taking them for lengthy walks multiple times a day, and feeding them a diet that many humans would envy. She also traveled to England many times to attend the Kennel Club Dog Show. Music was another passion that Thea and George shared, and their friends can attest to their skill, joy, and willingness to share music at social gatherings. George typically led on violin, with Thea accompanying him on piano, in rousing renditions of New England folk music. Thea was also an excellent conversationalist, drawing on her experiences traveling the world and her sharp wit to keep her friends laughing and entertained. Her interests were varied, and she never lost her Aussie twang, which ensured that no one was ever bored listening to Thea speak.

Thea was predeceased by her husband George (2008), her brother (2021), and her sister, who died in childhood. She is survived by her nephew in Japan, her niece in Tasmania, George's sister-in-law, Sandra Smith, and a niece and a nephew in Maine.