



Hart Robert Stringfellow Jr.

March 14, 1924 - September 5, 2020

Hart Robert Stringfellow, Jr., eldest of four sons of Hart and Lillian Glass Stringfellow, was born March 14, 1924 in Natchez, Mississippi. Raised in Gainesville, Florida, he graduated from P. K. Yonge Laboratory School in 1942. He began his engineering studies with a year at the University of Florida, then entered the United States Army. After graduating from Engineer School at Fort Belvoir, Virginia in 1944, he received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Upon graduation from the Academy in 1948, he began what would be a twenty-year career as an officer in the Navy Supply Corps, serving on many ships—he was a "plank owner," i.e., a member of the commissioning crew, of the aircraft carrier USS Independence—and at stations in Japan and Panama. He retired to Gainesville in 1967, becoming the first Director of Purchasing for Santa Fe Community College. He followed his work at SFCC with a year at the Sperry Rand Corporation before returning to the University of Florida, receiving his M.Ed. degree in 1972. With his study of Computer Assisted Instruction in the identification of oral disease, he earned his Ph.D. in 1975. The same year, he joined the faculty of the UF College of Dentistry, retiring from the university fourteen years later.

A lively raconteur and occasional poet, Hart was active in a multitude of civic and social organizations, including, but not limited to, Kiwanis and UF Retired Faculty (both of which he served as president), and, most important to him, Technocracy, Inc. Technocracy, he believed, allowed him to apply his engineering and education background to scientific solutions to macroeconomic and societal problems. He relished the opportunity to speak on the topic, whether to a large audience or to a single attentive listener.

He was a lifelong member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.

In his second year at the Naval Academy, Hart met Ernestine "Teen" Short of Denton, Maryland. The two were married in the Academy's Main Chapel one day after his graduation. Teen (and, eventually, their three children) accompanied Hart through all his travels with the Navy. At home in Gainesville, as in their Navy life, she was by his side in all things until her death in 2010.

Hart Robert Stringfellow, Jr. died at home on Saturday, the fifth of September at the age of 96. He leaves behind his children: Kirkman Hart Stringfellow, Mark Christian Stringfellow (Zoë Wright Edwards), and Tina Louise Stringfellow (Richard Hassler); a grandchild,

Alexis Ann Stringfellow; a sister-in-law, Jennie Stringfellow; longtime friend and caregiver Virginia Greider, and his dear friend and companion Betty Vasiliadis.

His three brothers, William "Buddy" Stringfellow, Fred Stringfellow, and James Stringfellow, Sr. also predeceased him.

[A full service in celebration of his life will be held when conditions permit.]

Comments



“ As Hart's neighbor for almost 20 years he and his wife were great people to know. I'm glad they are both together now... He was a fighter for life and I'm sure his whole life... I was glad I could save his life when he fell out of his car a few years ago... God's blessing to all of his family...Darlene Pifalo

Darlene Darlene Pifalo - September 16, 2020 at 08:39 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ellen Messmer - September 14, 2020 at 12:31 PM



“ Hart was my buddy. Whenever I came to his house to share Holy Communion or to pick him up for lunch, Hart always said “There’s my buddy!” I loved Hart. He was one of a kind. I will miss him. I will serve at his Mass at Holy Trinity when it’s OK to do so. He was a great man and I loved him. RIP buddy. See you on the other side!!!

paul fessenden - September 13, 2020 at 09:46 PM



“ My family really enjoyed getting to know Hart over the last 10 years. He brought so much joy to our Mothers life and our family. He was a member of the family and will be missed. May God bless you and comfort all of his family and friends during this time. Rest In Peace, Hart! We love you!!
Sandra Vasiladis Hicks

Sandra Vasiliadis Hicks - September 13, 2020 at 11:10 AM



“ I was privileged to have had many in-depth conversations about subjects that interested us both, and about which we were in complete agreement. I shall miss Hart tremendously because there is no one with whom I can on these subjects.

Thank you, Hart, for being a part of my life! I love you and look forward to meeting you in your next great adventure!

Jan Vasiliadis Blanton

Janis Meyer - September 13, 2020 at 07:29 AM



“ I met Hart over the years at University functions and through activities of the Kiwanis Club of Gainesville. He certainly deserved his accolade as "Master of Mirth at Retired Faculty of Florida meetings. Will certainly miss him.

Malcolm T. Sanford

Malcolm T Sanford - September 14, 2020 at 01:51 PM



“ I met Hart through Kiwanis and was immediately drawn to him. I spoke to him a few days before his death and was shocked to hear of his passing. I was looking forward to getting to know him better over time. He was a very young 96. I will miss having conversations with him and "cherry picking" his mind. So sad for his family and all his friends. He was such a joy to be around and always had a positive attitude about life. I'll miss him.

Andrew M Muskus II - September 20, 2020 at 01:33 PM