

David Benjamin Baglien, 89, passed away on January 12, 2016, after several months of declining health. Dave was born on April 21, 1926, in Rugby North Dakota and called Toccoa, Georgia home since he and Bernice retired from the Canal Zone in 1981. Bernice and Dave were high school sweethearts and true companions for 70 years.

Many fellow Zonians remember Dave for his work as a guidance counselor at Balboa High School and Canal Zone College. Dave was also President of the teachers union during the “anthrax sick-out” in the spring of 1976. Dave also served as the President of the Pacific Civic Counsel and testified in support of Canal Zone worker benefit and salary protections before the US Congressional hearings on the Panama Canal treaties. Ever outspoken and ready with a pointed question, Dave was known for irritating more than one of the Canal Zone’s governors in public forums.

Richard Clinton Bailey, age 75, passed away on January 6, 2016, in the Burt-Fish Memorial Hospital, Orange City, Fla. after a long illness. Richard was born on November 23, 1940, in Colon, Republic of Panama.

Richard graduated from Balboa High School, class of 1958. At the age of 18 years old, he was a charter boat captain. He was well known in the marine community and became an established charter boat captain of choice. He was also known to help boat owners with maintenance and repairs. He rebuilt two vessels into sport fishing boats. He ferried various vessels to and from the United States. He continued his life with the sea and boats after retirement. Richard held a U.S. Coast Guard Masters License up to 200 tons and was a representative for the International Game Fish Association (I.G.F.A.)

James Knox Polk Barnes, Jr. passed away at the age of 95 on October 27, 2015, in Garland, Texas. He was born on August 7, 1920, to James Sr. and Olive Barnes in Lancaster, Texas. He proudly served in the U.S. Coast Guard during WWII and worked as a federal police officer in the Panama Canal Zone for nearly 27 years. He retired in 1974 to come back to Texas and care for his ailing mother. "Red" loved sports, gardening, fishing, dominoes and playing poker with his friends.

Nancy Bateman Sokoloski passed peacefully with her daughter Kristy Sokoloski by her side on October 5, 2015. She grew up to be a strong-minded, independent woman with a great sense of humor and curiosity for adventure and the ability to connect with people. After college, Nancy’s sense of adventure lead to her working for the U.S. State Department at embassies in Uruguay, India, Libya and Ecuador. During her time in Ecuador, she met and married Walter Sokoloski of Ohio. This is when she had one of the greatest accomplishments in life, the birth of her daughter Kristy Lew Sokoloski.

Josephine C. Booth passed away on January 24, 2016. She married Kenneth R. A. Booth on April 30, 1939, at the Immaculate Conception Church, Old Cristobal, Colon, in the Republic de Panama. They resided in the former Canal Zone for many years, before retiring to their home in California. Jo lived an active life, enjoyed traveling and playing the piano.

Darrell F. Brown, Sr. of Little Rock and Horatio, Ark., departed this life on October 31, 2015. He attended and graduated from Sevier County High School in Lockesburg, Ark., and his undergraduate study at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1965, graduating with a degree in psychology in 1969. He was recently recognized as the first black football player and 2011 Razorback

Trailblazer at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He attended University of Arkansas School of Law where he received his Juris Doctorate in 1972. Shortly after graduation at the age of 24, he was appointed US Magistrate to the Panama Canal Zone from 1972 – 1979, where he met and married Angela Scott. He later served as an Assistant Attorney General, the special prosecutor, and judge in Pulaski County.

Lt. Col. **George “Spike” Lewis Capwell Jr. (Ret.)**, 81, was received in heaven Wednesday, December 9, 2015. Spike graduated from Balboa High School in 1951. He then attended the Citadel military academy in South Carolina and upon commencement enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He married Noreen Rawleigh, also a Second Lieutenant in the Marines, in 1958; they had seven children. While recovering from severe injuries sustained during his second Vietnam tour, he earned his Master’s Degree in Latin American Studies at San Diego State University, which allowed him to return to Panama in 1974 as Disaster Relief Coordinator for Southcom. In 1979, he retired as a Lt. Colonel in Twenty-nine Palms, Calif. He served the County of Riverside as a Disaster Relief Coordinator, retiring in 1999. He and his wife have lived in Yucca Valley since 1977.

Kenneth T. Daly passed away in Jacksonville, Fla. on August 30, 2015, at the age of 94. He married the love of his life, Alice Maxine Evenson in Chicago, Ill. before entering the U.S. Army during World War II where he served as a Tank Commander in the European Theater. After the war, he returned home to his wife and new baby daughter, Patricia, who was born while Ken was serving in Europe. Ken then applied for and accepted a position with the Fire Division of the Panama Canal Company. Their second daughter, Darlene, was born in the Canal Zone. Alice and Ken spent most of their married life in the Canal Zone where he eventually retired as Chief of the Fire Division. Ken was an avid ham radio operator, a member of the Panama Canal Society and Holy Family Catholic Church in Jacksonville, Fla.

David J. Dear, 69, passed away December 25, 2015, in Chiriqui province, Panama of a massive stroke. He attended schools in the Canal Zone before graduating from Dothan High School in 1964, Chipola Jr College, and FSU. He returned to the Canal Zone with his wife and daughter, Christie in 1970 to join the Canal Zone Police on the Atlantic side where he worked for the American and Panamanian governments as a police sergeant and Panama Canal tugboat master and pilot. His ashes were taken on his tugboat and scattered over his beloved canal at Gaillard Cut.

Florence Hughes Dempsey, 96, died December 5, 2015, at the home of her daughter, in Oxford, Ala.

Mrs. Dempsey moved to the Canal Zone in 1949, with her three children, to join her husband, who was a Canal Zone Policeman. Her youngest son was born there. During the next twenty years, she raised her four children, attended Canal Zone College, and began her career as a freelance writer for various magazines. After her husband's retirement, the Dempseys returned to Alabama, where she continued her writing career and worked as a substitute teacher and medical transcriptionist.

Olga Disharoon, 95, of St. Petersburg, Fla., passed away November 12, 2015. She was born in Panama City, Panama, where she grew up with 13 siblings. She graduated in 1939, from the City’s National Institute. In addition, she attended Columbia University in New York City during the war

years. Afterwards, she became a teacher in Colon, Republic of Panama. In 1945, Olga met and married the love of her life, Paul (BHS'39), who was serving in the United States Navy at the time. Olga became a U.S. citizen on July 4, 1956. During her many years as a 'Zonian' housewife, she was well known for her fabulous recipes. Friends often raved about her dinner parties for weeks afterwards. She absolutely loved being a hostess.

Upon Paul's retirement as a power branch foreman in 1973, they moved to St. Petersburg, Fla. They were married for 48 wonderful years at the time of his passing in 1988. Olga earned the most prestigious awards given by the Panama Canal Society of Florida: the Distinguished Service Award and the Honorary Life Time Membership Award. She served as the Hospitality Chairperson and volunteered in other areas for many years.

Paul Richard "Dick" Edwards passed away in Orem, Utah on May 30, 2015. He came to Panama as a teenager; attended and graduated from Balboa High School in 1949 and from the Canal Zone Junior College in 1952. In September of 1952, he and Margaret Straus were married at the chapel in Amador, They had met when both were employed at the newly opened Balboa Theater. At his death, they had been married for over 62 years.

Jo-Anne Fields, 72, of Kerrville, Texas, passed from this life on the evening of January 16, 2015, after a short but hard-fought battle with her heart. She was the daughter of the Rev. J.B. Fields and Annette Fillius Fields.

Jo-Anne was born in the Canal Zone, the Republic of Panama. She graduated from Balboa High School in 1960 and from Ripon College in 1964. After graduation, Jo-Anne taught math in Illinois for five years; subsequently returning to the Canal Zone in 1969, where she taught math and computers for thirty years. Upon retiring, she made her home in Kerrville, Texas. Jo-Anne was active in The Order of Rainbow for Girls and The Order of Eastern Star. Many of her students and Rainbow girls credit their career success to her. She was the Kerrville Area Reporter for the Canal Record for many years.

Don Fletcher, age 82, of Baton Rouge, La., passed away peacefully on January 8, 2016, in the presence of his wife, children, and grandchildren. He was born in Cumberland, Md.

Don was a wonderful husband to Hilda (Fernandez) for 56 years and loving father to Paul (Joel Meredith), Alicia (Jim) Ford and Annette Gaudet. He was most fond and proud of his eight grandchildren. He enjoyed and cherished participating in his children and grandchildren's lives.

Alice Forsythe passed away peacefully at home on January 18, 2016. She had worked in Ships Service, 15th Naval District, Amador, and Army PXs before she went to work at the Coffee Shop in Albroom Air Terminal, where she met her husband, Robert Forsythe. They were married on September 21, 1946. In 1950, they moved from Balboa to Gatun. She began sewing for ladies in Gatun and word of her talent spread. Before too long she was making Homecoming, Prom, and Wedding dresses, CHS cheerleading uniforms, Sweet Adelines gowns and much more.

Walter John Grow, Jr., (68) of Houston, Texas, died on November 8, 2015, at Grace Care Center in Houston after a long illness.

He was raised in Cardenas (Panama) and graduated from Balboa High School (Class of 1965). After high school graduation, John enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in Vietnam. After completing

his tour of duty in Vietnam, he attended and graduated from the University of Houston. Shortly after graduation, he was hired by the Federal Aviation Administration as an air traffic controller for fifteen years.

Mary Ellen Stacy Horine, born February 19, 1932, in Cheyenne, Wyo.

Mary Ellen was a life-long educator, including teaching in Puerto Rico, Denver, Colo., Panama Canal Zone, and Hardin Park School in Boone, N.C. and ultimately becoming Assistant Principal there. Her last teaching post before retirement was as an Adjunct Professor at Appalachian State University, supervising student teachers. Mary Ellen was a tireless substitute for the Watauga County schools as well. She cared deeply about children and knew how to reach them in the education setting. She loved children, and they loved her!

George Theodore Husum, beloved son, brother, husband, father, and friend to all who met him, passed away on December 14, 2015, in Panama City, Fla.

George was the consummate restaurateur. While a student at FSU, he worked at the local Bennigan's restaurant and continued to work for them after graduation in St. Petersburg. George later opened and was a managing partner for the Outback restaurants in Gainesville and Panama City, Fla. After retiring from the Outback franchise, he co-owned and opened The Red Elephant restaurant in Panama City. In May 2012, he finally realized a life-long dream of opening g. Foley's restaurant, in honor of his mother Ellen Foley Husum.

In addition to being a restaurateur, George was an incredible, generous, gregarious, fun-loving man and mentor to many. He meant so much to the Panama City community, being active in Bay High School's athletics programs and president of its Booster Club, fund raising for community organizations, and providing food and meals to community events, to name a few.

Alice L. Brayton Lowery passed away peacefully on January 19, 2016. Her father was a Roosevelt Medal Holder for his work during the construction of the Panama Canal. Alice married George E. Lowery in Washington, D.C., and later they moved to the Panama Canal Zone. Alice cherished her memories of those wonderful years and even began to write a series of short stories depicting this unique lifestyle.

Fernando Manfredo died on Wednesday, December 16, 2015. He was the first Deputy Administrator of the Panama Canal when it was under the management of the United States.

Manfredo was the presidential adviser during the negotiations of the Canal treaties in 1977. He served as Deputy Administrator starting 1979 with the Panama Canal Commission and worked with Dennis P. McAuliffe, the administrator of the waterway. Manfredo held the post until 1989.

In 1990, he was the first Panamanian administrator of the waterway, although this position was temporary, he prepared the baton for the first administrator chosen by Panama. He chaired the Organizing Committee of the Universal Congress of the Panama Canal in 1998. In 1994, he was a candidate for the first vice president of the Pope Egoró Movement with Ruben Blades. The singer posted a message on its website Facebook in which notes that "Fernando was a person dedicated to contributing to the development of our nation and its possibilities."

Betty Augur Parker, 95, passed away peacefully on January 12, 2016, in Ft. Belvoir, Va.

Married to David S. Parker in 1942, Betty found ways to engage in numerous educational, civic and charitable organizations at the 19 locations they resided. For Dave's last assignment as Governor of the Panama Canal Zone, in her role as "First Lady," she charmed visitors and residents with her ready smile and gracious manner. She oversaw the enhancement of the Governor's House and its gardens and opened the residence to many groups for the first time.

Upon their retirement in 1975, she continued with her passion for gardening and flower arranging.

Rosita Menendez Payne suffered a major hemorrhagic stroke on October 31, 2015, and went to heaven on November 23, 2015. Rosita was born in Barranquilla, Colombia, on May 26, 1935, the fourth of five children of Alfredo and Santos Menendez.

While in Panama, Rosita completed her bachelor's degree and earned a master's degree in educational psychology, all with straight-A grades. She worked in the Army's education program, teaching Spanish and providing educational counseling to uniformed personnel. All in all, they spent a total of 28 years in that Panamanian paradise. Rosita loved to dance, but she first had to teach her husband how to move his two left feet. Her warmest memories were of dancing to the music of Lucho at Ft. Amador Officers' Club and dancing at parties at the Governor's home and in the Ambassador's residence on Independence Day celebrations.

Loren Leo Reid, 83, of Lakeport passed away Friday, October 30, 2015.

Mr. Reid was stationed at Albrook A.F.B in Panama with the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War.

Kenneth E. Scott (Scotty), 78, passed away on September 5, 2015, suddenly from an aneurysm.

While in the Air Force, he flew all over the world only to return to the country he loved the most, Panama. Scotty was stationed in Panama at Quarry Heights from 1967 until his retirement in 1983. He then worked as a contractor for the U.S. Army until 1999. While stationed in the Canal Zone he spent many years playing softball, handball and racketball and Squash.

Larry Joseph Siegel passed away at home surrounded by family on December 26, 2015. Larry was born and raised in the Canal Zone and graduated from Balboa High School in 1958. He is remembered as a champion swimmer for Balboa and an overall outstanding athlete. Larry worked as a volunteer with the Red Barn providing therapy for disabled children using horses.

Wayne E. Smail, 44, passed away December 22, 2015, at St. Petersburg General Hospital. He served in the Navy on the USS Maine submarine as an E5 for six years and received an Honorable discharge. He was married to Kirsten Hanna Smail and lived in Reddington Beach, Fla. Wayne was Vice President of Integrity Technology in Tampa, Fla.

Calvin Lee Stempel Giannini died on November 1, 2015, in Miami, Fla. after a prolonged illness.

Calvin spent his childhood and youth with his parents and brothers, Rudy and Cookie, in the

neighborhood of Vista Nar (La Exposicion) on 37th Street between Ave. Peru and Ave. Cuba where he cultivated many great friendships, some for life. He was a lover of sports and excelled in baseball, basketball, and track and field while studying in schools of Ancon and Balboa in the Former Canal Zone. After graduating in 1944 from Balboa High School, he initiated university studies in architecture in the United States, graduating with a BA in Architecture at Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif. He worked as an apprentice to the famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright in Taliesin, Wis. and Taliesin West in Ariz. Calvin built the first condominium “Atalaya” in 1964 at the corner of 32nd Street and Balboa Ave., the IDAN building on Via Brazil, and the first shopping center “El Dorado”. His countless works were praised and rewarded by the SPIA for its organic integrity and a marked influence of design by the mentor Frank Lloyd Wright. His legacy is felt in Panama City.

Patricia Ann Szymanski Proback lost her battle to cancer on Friday, November 27, 2015, at home in Panama City, Panama. Patricia attended Gamboa Elementary School, Curundu Jr. High School, and Balboa High School Class of ‘86. While in Puerto Rico, she was in charge of an animal shelter and found her calling – her passion was always to help animals. She graduated in 2004 from American Intercontinental University with a degree in Marketing and worked for Katz Hispanic Media and Saks Fifth Ave. She continued with her passion for animals, fostering cats and dogs in need until they were placed. Patricia later returned to Panama and continued rescuing animals, setting up her foundation, “Patitas Sucias”. Her phone was always ringing with an animal rescue situation. No matter the time of day or area of town, Patti was there to help any animal in need. About 15 young ladies continue this labor of love under Patricia’s foundation with rescue missions throughout the Panama City area. Patricia loved the beach and often spent weekends in the sun, sand, and waters of Coronado and Santa Clara.

Henry Bell Twohy, 77, of Tampa, Fla. passed away Friday, January 1, 2016. He was born in Coco Solo, Canal Zone, Panama. Henry was a veteran of the US Navy and a retired Canal Zone police officer. He lived in Santa Clara, Panama and enjoyed spending his summers in Hale, Mich. Henry was a Eucharistic minister of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, a member of VFW and ELKS Lodge 1414 in the Republic of Panama.

Jean Wainio, 93, passed away peacefully in Chapel Hill, N.C., on September 30, 2015.

Jean began a career as a Recreation Specialist and Swimming Instructor in 1955 with the Canal Zone Schools Division. For nearly a quarter of a century, she worked at all 8 Canal Zone swimming pools where she touched the lives of hundreds of school children teaching them to swim, coaching swim teams and providing lifesaving and advanced swimming training to many others. Jean also taught adults to swim and was ahead of her time developing and teaching water aerobics and exercise classes. She loved her job and was extremely proud of the quality of the Canal Zone swimming pools and water safety programs. Throughout her life, she spoke fondly of the many people with whom she worked, especially her many young pool lifeguards.

Matthew J. Wilder, Sr., 96, devoted husband, father and grandfather passed away on November 19, 2015. He began his career with the Civilian Conservation Corps and entered the US Army at the beginning of World War II and served through 1945, serving in the South Pacific and the Panama Canal Zone. After his service to our nation as part of the “greatest generation”, he was employed by the Panama Canal Company, a subsidiary of the US Government, retiring as a Lieutenant

in the Canal Zone Fire Department in 1971.

Theodore (Teddy) R. Will, 70, passed away September 1, 2015. in Panama City, Panama. He lived with Zella Will, sister and caregiver for many years. He is survived by Dora Drummond, Zella Will, Barbara Smail, Mary Compton, Helen Herrera, Carl Will, Henry Will, Kit Will, and Lena Will. He enjoyed working for many years walking dogs for people who lived in the neighborhood and loved waving at his many friends as he walked by. He was an avid fan of oldies but goodies music, records, and enjoyed life to the fullest. Teddy always had a smile on his face and loved drinking his “Diet Cokes” at room temperature.

Captain **John Gifford Witt** (BHS'61), 72, of New Blaine, Ark., died Nov. 18, 2015, at Mercy Hospital in Ft. Smith, Ark., after a valiant fight against lung cancer. His wife and children were at his side.

John attended Balboa High School in the Canal Zone, where he met the love of his life, and future wife, Eula, a fellow student. John left the Canal Zone after high school graduation to complete his education at the St. Louis, Mo. Trade School. Joe then returned to the Canal Zone and was able to obtain a four-year apprenticeship with the Panama Canal Company, as an Engineman, Hoisting, and Portable Heavy Equipment Operator with the Gamboa Dredging Diving. He completed his apprenticeship in three years, became a Journeyman, and worked for many years with the Dredging Diving, moving up through various positions starting as a Dredge Mate, to Chief of Floating Cranes. Transferring to the Marine Division in 1978, as a Tug Captain, he advanced to the Tug Training Officer, and finally retiring as a Senior Ships Pilot. John was a flying enthusiast and was instrumental in building the Gamboa airfield for small aircraft, by doing all the field dozer work. He enjoyed using the airfield while owning two aircraft, one of which he totally restored in the garage of their Gamboa family house. It was quite a sight to see John pulling the body of his plane behind his pick-up, thru the streets of Gamboa. He also was a big drag strip racing fan. John built two drag strip racing cars and raced them on most work-free weekends at the old Rio Hato abandoned WWII military airstrip in

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