

Obituaries from October 2017

**Paula Rae Allen**, age 56, passed away on April 26, 2017, from congestive heart failure and Alzheimer's. Paula participated in the Special Olympics in swimming, tennis, and bowling. Paula participated in the International Special Olympics in 1983, where she won a bronze medal in swimming.

**Robert (Bob) Ausnehmer**, 90, beloved husband of Betty Barr Ausnehmer, died March 18, 2017. Bob worked in the Panama Canal Zone, first as a police officer and then as a Powerhouse Control Operator, retiring after 32 years of service. He was also a WWII Navy Veteran. Bob was an avid golfer, saltwater fisherman, expert marksman, a Mason in the Canal Zone, he enjoyed flying his plane, and was a Ham radio operator.

**Frank A. Baldwin Azcárraga**, 96, passed away peacefully on August 27, 2017, in Rock Hill, S.C. He was born on October 16, 1920, in Panama City, Republic of Panama. Frank, also known to many as Albert, grew up in Panama City and attended Canal Zone schools. He went to Balboa High School for two years, and then to the Castle Heights Military Academy in Lebanon, Tenn., graduating in 1938. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1944 and ultimately retired from the U.S. Army Reserves as a Major in 1980. After leaving Active Duty in 1948, he returned to work for the Panama Canal Company retiring in 1979. He worked in the Comptroller's Office for several years, but the culmination of his career came in 1963 when he became the Information Officer. As Information Officer, Frank was responsible for the issuance of press releases and informational materials, including publication of the Daily Digest, the weekly Spillway, and the Panama Canal Review magazine.

**Benjamin T. Bathen**, age 56, of Jacksonville, Fla. Passed away unexpectedly on May 3, 2017. Born in Newberry, England, he proudly served in the United States Navy before settling in Jacksonville. Benjamin graduated from Balboa High School in 1978.

**Julia Zephyrine Boukalis**, 95, of Weatherford, Texas passed away June 21, 2017. She married James Peter Boukalis in 1943. They departed for the Canal Zone in Panama where Jim worked as a Machinist for the Industrial Division, Panama Canal Company in Balboa. Julia was employed by the Department of the Army for 25 years and retired as an Administrative Assistant for the Corozal Finance Office. After retirement, Julia worked as a secretary for the Balboa Pilot's Union. In her spare time, she was a Staff Officer for the Canal Zone Girl Scouts of America and worked at the district and troop level. Julia was an active member of the St. Mary's Mission that helped raise funds to start the parochial school (St. Mary's) in the Canal Zone. She also helped the Palo Seco Leper Colony raise money to buy medicine, clothes, etc. for needy families. Julia was a member of the Panama Canal Society, Catholic Daughters of Americas and St. Stephen's Catholic Church, Weatherford Texas.

**Sheila Sheridan Bowen** passed away peacefully on May 6, 2017 surrounded by her family. She was born on April 1, 1945 in Ancon, Canal Zone in Panama to Patricia M. and William J. Sheridan Jr. She graduated from Balboa High School in 1963 and moved to California. She lived a life of service to others through various volunteer efforts such as the National Council on Alcoholism, Habitat for Humanity, the Bishop's Circle and hospice care.

**Janet Potter Cunningham**, 103, died on June 21, 2017, in Seminole, Fla. She was preceded in death by her husband, Samuel Ross Cunningham; her father and Roosevelt Medal holder, Russell B. Potter. Janet was born on January 25, 1914, in Ancon Hospital, Ancon, Canal Zone in Panama. As a newborn, Janet traveled home to Empire, Canal Zone over a swinging foot bridge, which spanned the then dry unopened Panama Canal. She attended Canal Zone schools and graduated in 1931, from Balboa High School where she had been a member of the school's swim team. After high school graduation, she married Samuel Ross Cunningham on February 5, 1934, at the Balboa Union Church. She worked for the U.S. Army in the Zone until Ross's retirement in 1963.

**Anna Kathryn Galloway Daniel**, age 82, of Houston, Texas, passed away on May 13, 2017. Born in Mercedes, Texas in 1934, she moved with her parents to the Panama Canal Zone where she graduated from Balboa High School with the Class of 1952. Returning to Texas, she got her Bachelor of Science Degree from The University of Texas in 1956 and spent many years working for the computer industry.

**Jean Pauline Grabhorn Dockery** passed away on July 2, 2017.

eye during Christmas

was born October 12, 1922 in Milwaukee, Wis. to the proud parents of Rudolph and Irma Grabhorn. Jean had two siblings; sister, Goldie, and brother, Rudy. Jean was one year old, her parents moved back to the Canal Zone in the Republic of

Panama. Her father worked maintaining the electrical mules that pulled the ships through the Canal. She graduated from "old" Cristobal High School. She eloped with Harry had eight children. Jean was employed by the government until she was 62. She held many jobs; Locks Division Time Keeper, School of the Americas Administrator and Transcriber, and Kirkland Air Force Base Administrator to name a few.

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**Wilbur "Jerry" Dockery, Jr.**, age 77, of Waco, Ga. passed away April 7, 2017. He was born November 10, 1939, in Ancon, Canal Zone to the late Wilbur Jerome and Eva Norene (Westbrook) Dockery, Sr. Jerry attended West Georgia College and graduated from Georgia State University. He worked for 34 years for the State of Georgia Department of Revenue. As a member of the United States Sea Scouts, he participated in the first and the last Ocean to Ocean Cayuco Race through the Panama Canal.

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**John Robert Fisher**, 70, of Dickinson, Texas, passed away peacefully in his home on May 9, 2017. Bob was born to Ena and John Earl Fisher on December 26, 1946, in Duncan, Ok., and grew up in the Canal Zone, Panama. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma with honors before proudly serving his country in Vietnam as a Captain in the U.S. Army, 101st Airborne, Artillery Division, and as a General's aide. He returned to OU for law school, was named Editor of the Law Review.

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**Thomas "Tom" Hawthorne Garber**, age 65, passed away on October 3, 2016, at his home in Arlington, Texas with his devoted wife, Johanne, by his side. Tom was born on September 20, 1951, in Clifton Forge, Virginia to Alice and William Garber and spent his formative years growing up in the Panama Canal Zone graduating from Balboa High School in 1969. He completed his education in the United States where he earned a bachelor's degree from Methodist College in Fayetteville, North Carolina. He will best be remembered for his love and knowledge of music and his extreme talented playing guitar leaving behind many songs and blues rifts that he composed and recorded himself. Tom was a loving husband, proud father and a friend to all.

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**Mary Rebecca "Becky" McLeod Herrington**, age 73 of Calhoun, Ga., passed away Sunday, June 4, 2017 at Gordon Health and Rehabilitation in Calhoun. She was born in Ancon, Panama on September 21, 1943. She is the daughter of the late Frank Jefferson McLeod and Alda Lorraine Madden. She spent her young life in the Canal Zone until coming to South Georgia College, Douglas, Ga., and then attended Grady School of Nursing in Atlanta. She spent most of her life in Marietta, Ga., before retiring from a long career with Ford Motor Credit Corporation in Atlanta.

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**Molly Idol** passed away on August 2, 2017, after a lengthy illness. She would have been 86 years young on August 12. Molly was born in Panama City, Republic of Panama. She married and lived for many years in the Panama Canal Zone. She had an enormous quest for knowledge and prized higher education and the importance of family as the most important goals for herself and her family. She attended Nursing School and graduated top in her class. She was employed as a school nurse for the Department of Defense Schools. Molly had a long and rewarding career as the school nurse at Curundu Elementary School. She was the recipient of many awards in recognition of her outstanding job performance.

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**Joseph A. Janko**, 95, died Jan. 2, 2017 at Memorial Hospital, following a brief illness. He was born July 6, 1921, in Cleveland, Ohio. Joseph Janko joined the U.S. Army in August 1942 and was stationed in Panama, Central America. While in Panama, he met and married his war bride, Aminta Janko. After his discharge from the Army as a Master Sgt. in 1945, Joseph worked briefly for both the U. S. Navy as a security guard, and then for Panama Public Roads division in the construction of Tocumen Airport in Panama City. After this, Joseph began working for the Panama Canal Company in January 1947. Joseph and his wife resided in the Panama Canal Zone for 30 years, where he retired as a Chief, Security Branch for the Panama Canal Locks Division. Joseph Janko was a life member of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Loyal Order of Moose, Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, S.J, and Free & Accepted Masons of California.

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**Nina Brown Kosik**, 79, passed away on May 6, 2017, in Panama City, Panama after a long, full life. Nina was a 3rd generation descendant of a Zonian. She was a graduate of BH'55 She was a ROTC sponsor in High School. Nina was well known as the "Godmother" of BHS'55 and a Canal Zone icon. She was employed by the U.S. Army as a civilian for the Engineers and Housing. Nina contributed to many blogs such as the *Zone Link*, *Tales of Panama & the Canal Zone newsletter*; Panama Canal Museum, CZBrats, History and Genealogy was her heart and soul. She also contributed to the *Canal Record* and was a member of the Panama Canal Society.

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**Jose (Bonsai) A. Martin** passed away in June 2017. He was born in the Panama Canal Zone and was a BHS'71 graduate. He had many accomplishments in track, baseball, football and basketball. He was an avid surfer.

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**James (Jim) Robert Miller** passed away at home on May 24, 2017. He was born September 14, 1943, in Portsmouth, Va.

After a three year enlistment with the US Air Force, he accepted a six-month contract with Lear Siegler rebuilding aircraft in the U. S. Panama Canal Zone. At the termination of the contract, he joined the Canal Zone Police as a Federal Law Enforcement Officer until the ratification of the Panama Canal Treaty. Jim proudly served with this professional Law Enforcement Agency and was Sargent in Charge of the Traffic Division when the treaty went into effect. He married Norma Briggs in the Canal Zone when she was a nurse at Gorgas Hospital. He became an avid AmateurRadio Operator with call signs: KZ5JM, and KZ0DX.

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**Wilfred Robert "BobbyMo" Morris**, died on June 24, 2017 from a CVA (Cerebro vascular accident) caused by a fall. He was known as Bob – “BobbyMo” to most. A true son of the Canal Zone, he was born in New Jersey and moved to Panama, when he was just four. Bob finished his schooling in the Canal Zone, excelling in Sports. After a year at Canal Zone College, he continued his education at Bradley University to earn a bachelor’s degree in Business. He returned to Panama as a Graduate Intern for the Supply Division, working in procurement until a treaty related early retirement. Bob married the love of his life, Linda Reimann. and had four great children.

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**Gabriel (Gabe) Nossov**, DVM, Colonel U.S. Army Veterinary Corps (retired), passed away in his sleep on December 17, 2016, at the age of 90. He was married to Gertrude (Trudy) Meyer Nossov from 1953 until her death in 1998. He attended City College of New York and graduated from Kansas State University in 1947, with the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. After graduation, he received a commission in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps in 1948, and served his country for 28½ years on active duty, retiring at the rank of Colonel in 1977. His final assignments included U.S. Army Southern Command Veterinarian, Panama Canal Zone, Chief Veterinary Activity, Brooke Army Medical Center., and Chief, Veterinary Activity, Dwight David Eisenhower Army Medical Center.

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**Robert (Bob) G. Orvis**, 81, of Port Orange, Fla., passed away April 20, 2017, after a year-long battle with cancer. Bob was born September 12, 1935, in Ancon, Canal Zone (Panama) to Roger and Francis Orvis. He attended both Balboa and Cristobal High Schools. He graduated from Cristobal High in 1953 and was voted “Best Dancer” of his senior class. After graduation, enlisted in the United States Navy as a Cryptologic Technician and spent most of his time in London, England on a “Top Secret” assignment. After his enlistment was over he and Lotty were married. Upon returning to the Canal Zone, he began a long and distinguished career with the Panama Canal Company. He retired in 1982.

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**Walter George Peterson Jr.** was born in Panama on November 23, 1941, to Walter George Sr. and Dorothy Irma (Eder) Peterson. Affectionately known as "Skipper," he had a wonderful childhood growing up in the Panama Canal Zone with his family and friends. Throughout his life, he would recall the adventures he experienced there. He served in the U.S. Air Force. He trained as an electrician and was stationed at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

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**Edwin L Rindfusz**, 80, of Dothan, Ala., died March 17, 2017, surrounded by his wife and friends. He was in the United States Army Special Forces for twenty years and retired. He served in Vietnam for three ½ years. Ed also did tours in Hawaii, Germany, Bolivia, Ft. Bragg, N.C., Ft. Huachuca, Az., Ft. Monmouth, N.J., and Panama Canal Zone. He became a 33rd degree Mason, and a Shriner while living in the Panama Canal Zone.

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**Dr. Robert H. Rupp**, 99, died on May 23, 2017, at the Hospital Nacional in Panama City, Panama. His three sons were at his side. Born on August 3, 1917, in Ann Arbor, Mich., Dr. Rupp graduated from Wayne State Medical School in Detroit, Mich. and came to Panama in 1942 as a 1st Lieutenant in the Army Medical Corps. His first assignment as a doctor was as an intern at Gorgas Hospital. In 1946, he married Teresa Endara and shortly thereafter traveled to California to attend the UCLA Medical School in Los Angeles, where he specialized and received his boards in Eye, Ears, Nose, and Throat (EENT) with a specialty in Ophthalmology. He returned to Panama in 1952. After working two years at the well known Raymond Clinic in Panama City, he was appointed in 1954 as the Chief of Ophthalmology at Gorgas Hospital, a job which he held until he retired in December of 1977. Dr. Rupp was well known internationally for his work at Gorgas Hospital, and many of his cases were frequently published in the Ophthalmology medical journals.

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**Richard Sasso**, 82, passed away on March 8, 2017 at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne, Ind. He was born on November 7, 1934, in Colon, Panama, to Mary Walker and Isaac Sasso. He graduated from Cristobal High School in Panama and received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Michigan State University.

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**Edward Allen Scott**, 73, died on June 8, 2017 at hospice after a battle with cancer. Formerly of Gladstone, he is the son of the late Edward R. and Dorothy Scott of Holiday, Fla. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Michael L. Scott, and Thomas Scott.

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**Cynthia Jane (Becker) Stabler**, age 70, passed away peacefully on July 29, 2017, surrounded by her family at Agrace Hospice Care Center. She was born June 11, 1947, in Minneapolis, Minn. to Robert and

Marilyn Becker. Cindy and daughter, Ronda, spent the first six years of Ronda's life in the former Canal Zone, Republic of Panama. They left the Canal Zone and settled in a rural farming town in Ridgeway, Wisc. which they deeply loved.

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**Kathryn Argo Taylor**, 81, passed away after a long illness on June 19, 2017, in Hemet, Calif. She was born in Grand Coulee, Wash., and moved to Gatun in 1939 with her parents, Emmett and Adele Argo. A class of '53 graduate of Cristobal High School, the highlight of her summer each year was attending her class reunion in Florida at the Panama Canal Society reunions. After moving to Southern California in 1981, she was an active board member of the Panama Canal Society Southern California chapter.

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**Eleanor Claudia Willman** died on August 17, 2017, after living at Madonna Towers in Rochester for 12 years. Her Eleanor married her childhood friend and sweetheart, Clyde A. Willman Sr., when he was on leave from the Navy, December 27, 1941. She followed him from base to base throughout WWII. The family moved to Fargo, N.D., in 1957, when Clyde was appointed principal of Fargo Central High School. Their next career move in 1963, took them to warmer climates in the Panama Canal Zone, where he became principal of the American high school. This surprisingly high-profile position in the Canal Zone meant that they occasionally rubbed shoulders with Panamanian leaders, including Omar Torrijos and Manuel Noriega. Her 14 years in Panama gave Eleanor a love for swimming in the ocean that she would carry with her into retirement, even if she had to settle for indoor swimming pools.

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**Mark Kevin "Stumpy" Wilson**, 60, Bradenton, Fla., passed away suddenly October 28, 2016. "Stumpy" was born November 4, 1955, at Gorgas Hospital in Ancon, Canal Zone to the late Leroy and Sarah Wilson. He graduated from Balboa High School, Class of 1973. He moved to Bradenton in the early '80s from North Carolina. Locally he was the proud owner of Wilson Walls, a stucco company in Bradenton for 27 years. He was also an avid outdoor enthusiast especially with

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