



Walter "Buzz" L Sanderson Jr

September 15, 1930 - November 23, 2020

Walter "Buzz" Sanderson, Jr., 90, passed away to our Lord on Monday, November 23, 2020. Wonderful Husband, Father, Brother and Grandfather. He was born September 15, 1930 in St. Louis, MO and grew up from modest beginnings during the Great Depression. He talked of selling wire coat hangers when he was a child for money. When Buzz was a young teen, he was very proud to earn his Eagle Scout badge (top level within the Boy Scouts). He credited being an Eagle Scout as to why he had an interest in going into the military along with several friends who were joining the Coast Guard.

He joined the Coast Guard in 1951 and served during the Korean War. He was proud to be a Gunner's Mate on a Nike Cutter patrol boat. He chose the Coast Guard because he loved the ocean and being on the open sea. Buzz was proud to be a part of the United States Coast Guard and protect our shores.

After his time in the service he returned to school at St. Louis University to study geology. He also took courses with the American Gem Society and became a registered gemologist while he was working at Hamilton Jewelers. This is where he met his wife, Virginia. A true beauty who said she would marry him. When Buzz was up for promotion to Store Manager, he asked for a store in Florida so that he could be by the water again. He and Virginia and

their three little girls moved to West Palm Beach, FL. The family would regularly go to the beach for weekend entertainment. Buzz and Virginia were happy to welcome a son, James (Jay) in 1970 to complete their family. Buzz had an amazing career within the Jewelry Industry. He started out as a Sales Associate and was promoted up through to Vice President in charge of Jewelry stores throughout Florida and the Southeast.

Buzz was an avid reader and he loved to read textbooks on military history, details of ship and submarine construction. He was also very well read on the Bronze Age, Egyptian and Roman History, Winston Churchill, European Kings and Queens, and Homer the Iliad. Buzz and Virginia were fortunate enough to be able to enjoy International travel and further explore Buzz's love of history and antiquity. Buzz was a quiet thoughtful man but, if you wanted to hear a story all that you had to do was ask him about what he was reading, and he would share history with you. When his kids were little, he would tell us stories about princesses from Ireland and Scotland. He took his knowledge of history and created beautiful childhood stories for us and then later for the Grandchildren.

When the kids were little, a regular summer vacation spot was Sanibel Island, FL which at the time was a quaint little island. Our family always stayed at the Song of the Sea. He loved going early each morning out to the beach to collect seashells with Virginia and the children. Since Buzz was such a lover of the outdoors we also went as a family to many state parks over the years. When we were young, we loved it, when we were teenagers, not so much. Jonathan Dickenson State Park was a regular park that we visited when we were little. We would bring a picnic lunch and have a wonderful day at the park, and the beach. Buzz was on the water whenever possible. Buzz, Virginia and Jay had a wonderful trip to the Dry Tortuga's and Buzz was the Captain of the Sailboat enjoying every minute of it.

We used to load in the family station wagon and go on summer vacations. We also went to Disney World when they first opened in Orlando, FL. An early memory that I have is that Dad tied a balloon to my wrist and let me go into the middle of the Disney characters. In those days you could do that without lines to meet the characters. I was lucky enough to have my favorite Disney Princess, Snow White, kiss me on the cheek with “lips as red as rose”. To remind me of this wonderful memory, Dad used to draw a stick picture of me with balloons tied to my wrist each year on my birthday card.

Another wonderful memory was the annual Halloween Carnival at St. Ann’s Grade School in West Palm Beach, FL. Dad always volunteered and got very involved. He was in charge of the fish-pond and then other years he added in animated dancing electric dogs, and one year he made a wooden monster with big eyes and a mouth that you put your hand into for a prize.

Watching T.V. back in those days was a family affair with one T.V. in the house in the “blue room” (family room with blue carpet). We always watched the Smithsonian Special and National Geographic specials when they came on. We learned a lot about nature, geology and global culture from these programs. Two other shows that Buzz loved to watch in the evening were M.A.S.H. (which is set during the Korean War) and Star Trek. These will always be T.V. shows that make us think of him. Buzz loved watching football and golf too. He loved the home team, Buccaneers, and his favorite golfer was Phil Nicholson. He enjoyed spending time golfing with his son-in-law’s. Jokes on the golf course, regular trips to the sand trap made for a good time.

The Grandkids loved that Grandpa had birds that would come to visit him on the front porch, the kids loved one of the birds in particular named “Whitey” who was a large Egret that came regularly to visit for years. Grandpa also loved to paint, play chess, do puzzles, and tell Ghost Stories to the Grandkids.

Buzz is survived by his devoted wife of 60 years, Virginia; Grateful Children, Beth Golden, Sue Corn, Kathy Ouzts and Jay Sanderson; Loving Brother Jim and Sister Patsy; Son-in-Laws, Wayne Golden, Jay Corn and Steve Ouzts; Grandchildren, Zak (and wife Ella), Grant, Cami, Hannah, Sam, Tyler, Bryce and Keyan.

Memorial Service will be held outdoors at 11:30 a.m., Friday, December 4th at Sarasota National Cemetery with reception to follow.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 3. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Gendron Funeral & Cremation Services Inc. - Sarasota, FL

135 N. Lime Ave

Sarasota, FL 34237

(941) 365-1767

mike.gendronfuneralhome@msn.com

<https://www.gendronfuneralhome.com/contact-us/sarasota-fl-funeral-home>

burial

DEC 4. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Sarasota National Cemetery

9810 State Road 72

Sarasota, FL

Tribute Wall



“ *Walter "Buzz" L Sanderson Jr*

October 09, 2023 at 02:01 AM



“ *Walter "Buzz" L Sanderson Jr*

January 28, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ *Divine Light was purchased for the family of Walter "Buzz" L Sanderson Jr.*



December 02, 2020 at 10:01 PM



“ *5 files added to the album Walter Sanderson*



Beth Golden - December 02, 2020 at 06:41 PM

AL

“ Uncle Buzz always had a smile to share. He took an interest in everyone. When my Daughter Christine interned at Disney he and Aunt Virginia took the long drive to go visit. Always willing to make others happy. May he enjoy eternal rest in the Lord. Love, Ann (Ann Harbaugh Lauria)

Ann Lauria - December 02, 2020 at 11:10 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Walter "Buzz" L Sanderson Jr.



December 01, 2020 at 12:15 PM

TF

“ The Margarone Family purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Walter "Buzz" L Sanderson Jr.



The Margarone Family - December 01, 2020 at 10:57 AM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Walter "Buzz" L Sanderson Jr.



December 01, 2020 at 12:37 AM

MK

“ Uncle Buzz always seemed so special and charming to me as a kid because he was a jeweler . As an adult, even though I didn't see him very often, I knew he was a special part of our very large extended family . We also shared the same birthday September 15! God bless Aunt Virginia and the rest of the Sanderson family.

Mary Harbaugh Kiningham - November 30, 2020 at 05:36 PM

PH

“ I didn't have a brother but Buzz's passing must be what it is like to lose one. Our inability to attend his funeral due to Covid risk is Sadening. We have known him for some 60 plus years since Virginia announced their engagement.

Buzz's career and mine took our families away from St. Louis and we saw each other only at family gatherings. In more recent years we have managed times together for childrens' weddings and visits to the beach house in North Carolina.

The more time spent with Virginia and Buzz, the greater appreciation of his achievements: Eagle Scout, success in his career in the competitive jewelry business, scoring acceptance level in competition for the Coast Guard Academy, skippering an ocean going sailboat to the Dry Tortugas , international travel all while seeking knowledge.

That all said, Buzz's greatest successes and pride were family:. Wonderful husband, living father to their three lovely daughters- and the there came the grandchildren on which he doted.

Walter Sanderson was a very successful man and one I will miss.

RIP.

Paul (Stormy) and Marlene Harbaugh

paul Harbaugh - November 30, 2020 at 12:50 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Walter "Buzz" L Sanderson Jr.*



November 30, 2020 at 09:02 AM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Walter "Buzz" L Sanderson Jr.*



November 28, 2020 at 12:03 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Walter "Buzz" L Sanderson Jr.*



November 27, 2020 at 06:27 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Walter Sanderson*



Tyler Ouzts - November 27, 2020 at 05:13 PM