

# FLORIDA REGIONAL MEETING GROUP

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

Updated 12/24/2020

### JOYS

Send us the “joys” of your fellow members or of yourself (i.e. significant birthdays, anniversaries, grandchildren, travels, awards, etc.)

### CONCERNS

**Thompson, Jeanette Warren** (Dec 17, 2020) Jeanette, 80, of Midlothian, VA. passed away after a long illness. She was born on August 12, 1940 in Asheville, NC. She was preceded in death by her parents, Eules H. Warren and Ethel R. Jackson, and her brother Jerry E. Warren.

Jeanette is survived by her loving husband of 61 years, Wriston A. Thompson, Jr.; daughters, Vicki Tambellini (Dave), Mitzi Staton, and Rebecca Collins (Ron); grandchildren, Katelyn Ilkani (Awat), Chase Tambellini, Lauren Staton, and Haley Thomson (Ian); great grandson, Grant Ilkani; brother, James H. Warren.

Jeanette will be remembered most for her generosity, kindness, sense of humor, love for her family, and her faith. She grew up in Asheville, and married her high-school sweetheart. Wriston’s career with **JC Penney** meant that they relocated often, and Jeanette made many friends in each new city.

She was adept at fundraising and led major campaigns for YMCA’s in Anniston, Alabama, Nashville, Tennessee, and Richmond, Virginia. She and Wriston retired in Port St. Lucie, Florida and moved to Midlothian in 2003. She was an active member of St. Edward Catholic Church, and volunteered with the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary. She was a member of the Midlothian Women’s Club. She was a devoted wife, mother, “Mimi”, and friend and will be missed by all that knew her.

Jeanette was a graduate of Lee H. Edwards High School in Asheville, NC in the class of 1958. She studied business at Lenoir Community College.

A Private interment will be at Saint Edward Church. A memorial Mass will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org), or the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary at Saint Edward’s Catholic Church 2700 Dolfield Dr. North Chesterfield, VA 23235.

**Brown, Leon Eugene** (Dec 7, 2020) Brown, a long-time resident of Clay County died of heart complications.

He was born at home in Hammond, Louisiana on September 30, 1935. Growing up he was known to his family as “Sonny”. Later in life, he was affectionately known to as “Grandy”. Leon graduated from the laboratory school at Southeastern University High School and attended Southeastern University in Hammond, Louisiana. There he met and married Marion Louise Bassin Brown. They were married for 49 years until her death in 2010.

Leon began working as a sales clerk for the **JCPenney Co.** in 1960. He advanced quickly in management and continued his career with JCP for 30 years, working in Metairie, La., Mobile, Ala., Roanoke, Va., Newport News, Va., New Orleans, La., and finally in Orange Park, FL, where he managed the JCP store from it’s opening in 1980 until his retirement.

Leon was an active member of Orange Park United Methodist Church since 1980. He was a past President and active member of Orange Park Rotary Club. Leon loved to cook and had a passion for Cajun/creole cooking. He was famous for his Gumbo, Red Beans and Rice, and strawberry shortcake. In December 2019, he suffered a stroke and a badly fractured ankle which required him to move to assisted living just before the pandemic hit. As an avid gardener, he used his time during COVID restrictions to plant a sanctuary garden in the courtyard of the care center.

Leon is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Marion Bassin Brown. He is survived by their four children, Cheryl Marino of Winter Haven, FL, David Brown (Cindy), Michael Brown (Jennifer) of Green Cove Springs, and Paul Brown (Patricia) of Tucson, AZ; eleven grandchildren, Maegan Alvarado (Brian), Catherine Marino (Spencer), Paul Marino, Lauren McClure (Kevin), Boyd Brown (Caitlin), Samantha Brown, Carolyn Haymon (Austin), Courtney Babcock (Michael), Sarah Brown, Bryce Brown, and Aiden Brown; six great-grandchildren, Bryon Alvarado, Henry Alvarado, Cooper McClure, Rhett McClure, Theo Marino, Penelope Marino, and Michael Babcock.

In honoring his wishes, memorialization is by cremation. Graveside memorial services will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday January 2, 2021. Leon will be laid to rest with his wife in the Garden of Prayer at Jacksonville Memory Gardens, 111 Blanding Blvd., Orange Park, FL. Friends are asked to please be mindful of distancing guidelines, and the use of a protective mask is encouraged.

Leon was a great animal lover. He rescued and cared for many creatures over the years including feeding wild ducks and geese. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions to Safe Animal Shelter in Middleburg, FL. <https://safeanimalshelter.com/donations/donate>. All are invited to share remembrances of Leon on the Tribute Wall here.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Leon Eugene Brown, Jr. please visit our [Tribute Store](#).

**Chicoskie, Joseph Michael** (Oct 23, 2020) Chicoskie, 78, of Plano, Texas passed away at Medical City Plano with his wife and three sons. He was born on May 1, 1942, the son of Henry Frank Chicoskie and Helen (Klema) Chicoskie in Cleveland, Ohio.

Joseph graduated from Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland and St. Gregory's University, located in Shawnee, Oklahoma. On May 31, 1969, in St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Parma, Ohio, Joseph was married to the love of his life Sandra (Stamatis) Chicoskie, with whom he enjoyed 51 years of marriage. He worked for **JCPenney**, and in 1971 Joseph and Sandra moved to Pittsburgh and raised their three sons in Bethel Park, Pennsylvania. In 1985, he was promoted to the JCPenney Corporate office in New York City and moved his family to Lawrenceville, New Jersey. Then, in 1988, JCPenney moved their corporate office to Plano, Texas. Joseph retired a JCPenney executive in 1998 after 30 years of service.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Sandra, nee Stamatis, sons Joseph Jude Chicoskie of Frisco, Texas, Christopher John Chicoskie of Dallas, Texas and Mark Henry Chicoskie (Julia) of Collierville, Tennessee; grandchildren, Michael Augustine Chicoskie, Alexander Joseph Chicoskie, and Madeleine Heather Chicoskie. Joseph is also survived by his four sisters, Cathleen Campbell of Cleveland, Ohio, Gerry Lombardo and husband, Tom of Anthem, Arizona, Alexis Wallace and husband, Dan of Cleveland, Ohio, and Penny Heiman and husband, Bill of Cleveland, Ohio; numerous nephews, nieces, other loving family and friends.

Joseph was preceded in death by his daughter, Heather Marie Chicoskie and sister, Joanne Jones. A funeral mass will be held 11:00 a.m., Saturday, October 31, 2020 at Our Lady of Angels, 1914 Ridgeview Drive, Allen, Texas 75013. Joseph's cremated remains will be interred at Holy Cross Cemetery in Cleveland, Ohio. Turrentine Jackson Morrow Funeral Home in Allen, Texas, will be handling the arrangements for the Chicoskie family.

A "come and go" visitation will be held on Friday afternoon, from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., at Turrentine-Jackson-Morrow Funeral Home, 2525 Central Expressway North, Allen, Texas 75013. Only a limited number of guests will be allowed to enter the funeral home facility at any one time to maintain social distancing.

Memorial contributions may be made in his honor to Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church.

**Minter, John Kester** (July 16, 2020) John, age 87 years, died at Hospice House in Fort Pierce, FL. "A LIFE WELL LIVED AND WELL LOVED." John is survived by his wife Theresa, three sons, Steve M., Robert B., John D Minter, two stepdaughters, Lesle A., and Theresa M. "Tara" Stecher, 11 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his former wife, Juanita "Nita" Montgomery.

John was born in Martinsville, VA to parents Robert Octavius Minter and Isabel Kester Minter. He graduated from the University of Virginia with a BA in Commerce. He was a member of the PIKA Fraternity and served in the U.S. Air Force, retiring at the rank of Captain.

John spent most of his career (33 years) as a store manager with **J.C. Penney Company**, retiring in 1993 in Slidell, Louisiana. John loved fishing, always looking to catch "That Big One", golf, always looking to capture that "Hole in One", boating, spending this quiet time spiritually connecting with the "Godly One".

He was a Christian who lived a life full of love and respect for his fellow beings.

John wishes are to be cremated with no formal service. In lieu of flowers please support the Boys and Girls Clubs.

Condolences can be sent to Theresa at:

15 Harbor Isle Drive, West

Unit #103

Ft. Pierce, FL. 34949

**Leland, Mary E.** (Apr 17, 2020) Mary was born on March 27, 1927 in Suttons Bay, M. She is under the care of Aycock Funeral Home. Beloved wife of Jack Leland passed away at the age of 93. She was a great **Penney wife** through Jack's 39 career.

**Hanna, Mary Lucille** (Mar 30, 2020) Hanna, 85, was of Plant City, Florida. She was born July 7, 1934, the youngest daughter of Arch and Mary Gladys (Altenburg), who preceded her in death, as did her sister, Beatrice Royce, and her brother, Ernest.

Lucille, as she was known, grew up in Townville, a small town in northwest Pennsylvania, where her family owned a hardware store and she doted on her horse, Tony. In addition, music played an important role in her life, singing and the trumpet in the high school band, and she was an accomplished baker — she even won a state fair ribbon in the pie competition as a teenager. She was also a clever seamstress, her nimble fingers fashioning closets of clothes and housefuls of window dressings and other projects.

Lucille and Jack, her husband of 61 years, loved entertaining and traveling, especially their 11 years of motor home adventures. The couple retired to Sun City Center, Florida, where they lived for 20 years after Jack retired from **J.C.Penney Co.**

Lucille is survived by her daughters, Cindy Hanna, Mar (Hanna) and son-in-law, John Harrer; son, Mark and daughter-in-law, Margaret (Billitter); seven grandchildren, Nicole (Jonathon) Hanlon, Jessica (Robert) Ruwe, Jack (Erin) Harrer, Marissa Harrer, Megan Hanna, Morgan (Mark) D'Angolini and Molli (Jason) Worrell; and four — almost five! — precious great-grandchildren; Madeline, Colt, Hannah, Olivia and Sage, who is due anytime.

No service is planned at this time due to recent national concerns. A family memorial is being planned for a later date. In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate donations to Kingsley Cemetery (in remembrance of Jack & Lucille Hanna), 29234 Lyona Rd., Guys Mills, Pa. 16327.

**Faulkner, Frederick C.** (Apr 26, 2017), Frederick, 86, lived in Sarasota, FL. He was born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana and graduated from Indianapolis Washington High School and Indiana University.

He was a Korean Conflict Veteran where he served as a Captain/Quartermaster in the United States Army. He enjoyed a 36-year career with **the J.C. Penny Company** and was awarded Manager of the year in 1989 for his accomplishments. He was a proud member of the Palm Aire Country Club and the 9-hole Men's Golf League.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Gail F. Paluka.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara (Hendershot); son, Bruce; daughter, Karen Dinino; seven grandchildren;

nine great-grandchildren; and many close friends he considered family.

Entombment with Military Honors was conducted at Sarasota Memorial Park. Online condolences may be offered at: [www.palmsmemorial.com](http://www.palmsmemorial.com).

**Simmons, Mrs. Sandra** (Mar 2, 2019)- Mrs. Sandra M. Simmons, 66, of 203 Spring Forest Dr, Airken, SC entered into rest at the Augusta University Medical Center. Funeral arrangements will be announced.

Mrs. Simmons was a member of the Burns Chapel United Methodist Church in Newnan, GA.

Survivors include her husband, Gary Simmons Sr; one daughter, Tamethea Simmons; two sons, Gary Simmons Jr & Christopher Simmons all of Riverview, FL; two sisters, Ludi A. Arnold & Bevelyn Murray both of Washington, DC; two brothers, James L. (Valerie) McCambry, Washington, DC & Raiford (Barbara) McCambry, Birmingham, AL; and a host of other relatives.

Funeral services for Mrs. Sandra M. Simmons will be 2pm Saturday, March 9, 2019 at the Shellhouse Rivers Chapel with Rev. George L. Brightharp officiating. Interment will be in East View Cemetery, Newnan, GA. Family and friends may call her residence, 203 Spring Forest Circle or after 1pm Friday at G.L. Brightharp & Sons Mortuary.

**Bjerke, Bendick, Ben** (Feb, 2019) has passed away at the age of 74. Ben was born in Hatton, ND to Peder and Florence (Pladson) Bjerke. Graduated from Hatton High, he attended Mayville State University then transferred and graduated from University of North Dakota.

Ben married Linda (Berg) Bjerke, they moved to Denver, Co. where he began his 38 year career with **JCPenney**. He and Linda had 2 children.

Ben was preceded in death by his Father, Mother and Brother Philip. He is survived by his wife Corinne (Lambert), son Ross (Melody McCray), daughter Jennifer Bjerke (William De Souza Lobo), grandchildren Joaquin and Luella De Souza Lobo. Niece Lori (Jim) Corbey, MacKenna, and nephew Eric (Karen) Bjerke.

Throughout his career, he was relocated to many states, including Nebraska, Florida, Georgia, Maryland and New York. Ben enjoyed becoming a 3-4 year tourist throughout the country. Ben was active in many church, community and volunteer organizations. Beginning with 4H as a child, Toastmasters, Red Cross. He was an active member of the JCPenney HCSC alumni Deep South chapter, serving as treasurer for many years.

After his family and friends, Ben enjoyed sports. First love is Basketball at all levels. He loved to play, and he loved to watch, high school, college and pro. He was an active member of the Villages Booster club, and enjoyed watching the basketball games, at home and away, boys and girls, varsity and junior varsity.

Ben loved to play golf, enjoying the the fellowship in both his neighborhood group, and group of special friends. He enjoyed playing Sports Trivia, and attending the Civil Discourse meetings.

Ben's easy going manner, open heart and mind will be missed by family and friends, and close classmates from Hatton ND.

A memorial service will be held February 11, at 10:30 AM. Hope Lutheran Church, 250 Avenida Los Angeles, The Villages FL. 32162.

There will be an internment and Hatton ND, in the late spring. In lieu of flowers, please support your local Hospice House.

**Harold Bernard Eddins** (December 22, 2014) "Hal" was 89 and passed away in Panama City, Florida. Hal was born on August 6, 1925 in Frisco City, Alabama to Riley Bernard Eddins and Mattie McKinley Eddins. He graduated from Evergreen High School in Evergreen, Alabama and joined the United States Navy where he served in San Diego, California and Japan until the end of WWII. Upon his return, he attended the University of Alabama where he majored in Accounting in the School of Commerce & Business Administration. He pledged Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity and met the love his life, Theresa Starling of Panama City, who shared his life for 61 years.

Hal was devoted to his work and spent his entire career with J. C. Penney Company, starting as an auditor in Atlanta and becoming the executive assistant to three successive CEOs in the company headquarters in New York City. During

his tenure with Penney, the family lived in Atlanta, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Cincinnati, and New Jersey. While in New Jersey, Hal served in various capacities at Scotch Plains Baptist Church and served on the board of the Good Samaritan Hospital in New York City.

Following his 35-year career, Harold and Theresa retired to Panama City to be close to family. Hal was an active member of First Baptist Church, Panama City, and was an avid supporter and worker for Salvation Army. He was a long-standing member of the Panama City Rotary Club where he was awarded the Paul Harris Award. Hal was devoted to his alma mater, and held office in the University of Alabama National Alumni Association. He was a member the Krewe of Dominique Youx and was devoted to the Emerald Coast Red Elephant Club where he served in numerous positions.

Hal loved his Lord, his family and his many friends. He loved his church, his home, the city of Panama City and he loved the University of Alabama and Alabama Football. Roll Tide!

He was preceded in death by his wife, Theresa Starling Eddins, sister, Evelyn Eddins Barron and brother-in-law, Bishop N. Barron. He is survived by his children, Louise Estelle Eddins and Harold Bernard Eddins, Jr., daughter-in-law, Eileen Lowe Eddins, two grandchildren, Samantha Jean Eddins and Riley William Eddins, aunt, Lorraine Eddins Davison and niece Brenda Barron.

Memorial donations may be made to the First Baptist Church of Panama City, 640 Grace Avenue, Panama City, Florida, 32401 or to Wilson Funeral Home, 214 Airport Road, Panama City, Fla. 850-785-5272

**Richard H. (Dick) Abercrombie** (March 10, 2014) Dick passed away in Naples, FL after a long bout with alzheimer's disease. He is survived by his wife Carol who resides in Naples, Fl., his 5 children, 14 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Dick was born in Buffalo, NY and began his 42 year JCPenney career there in 1953.

He had many achievements and acquired many friends throughout his management assignments in Toledo, Oh. (1966-1970), Bay Shore, NY (1970-1974), New Hyde Park, NY (1974-1976), Pittsburgh, PA (1976-1977), New York, NY (1977-1979), Columbus, OH (1979-1986), Ann Arbor, MI (1986-1990) and Toms River NJ (1990-1995) where he retired as Store Manager.

Condolences may be directed to family at 3904 Forest Glen Blvd. #101, Naples, FL 34114.