

Obituary

Carl Eugene Coxwell, age 79, of Inverness, FL passed away on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 in Inverness, FL. It is a daunting task to condense 79 years of life into so few words, so if something is left out that was important to you, please take the time to share that memory or story with the family. We will treasure hearing it.

Carl was born on August 19, 1937 in High Springs, Florida to Maurice Alfred and Ethel (Baker) Coxwell. He joined older brother Maurice Alfred, Jr. (Freddy) and sister Carolyn (June), and brother Kenneth (Kenny) followed. There were some difficulties during his childhood, but he never dwelt on those, choosing instead to recount stories of playing in the orange groves, swimming in practically any body of standing water regardless of safety, trips to the Suwannee River where his grandparents ran a fish camp, the loving family and extended family that he was blessed with, and how he played hooky from Vacation Bible School *one* day and the memory had stuck with him his entire life.

As a young man he joined the Air Force and became an airplane mechanic. For various reasons he enjoyed extensive time on KP duty, but he served out his enlistment with no lasting negative effects and was honorably discharged. He returned to Tampa, Florida, where he met and married Alice Jean (Jeannie) Sullivan. They had two children Carl, Jr. and Cynthia. They moved to Memphis, Tennessee where he worked in construction for 8 years before moving to Citrus County. Carl and Jeannie divorced in the 1970's, but later became dear friends and remained so until her death in 2008.

Carl worked in the commercial construction industry in Citrus, Marion, and Hernando counties for many years. He was involved with the construction of many of the banks, businesses, and government buildings in Citrus County and beyond.

Carl was an artist, working with oil paints, pastels, and charcoal. He left many of us with treasured works of art or portraits to remember him by. He even attended the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota for a time. He loved teaching art to his grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. He was a long time member of Mensa. He loved music, and had an extensive vinyl record and CD collection including Pink Floyd, Beethoven, and everything in between. He was an avid photographer until his health no longer allowed him that pleasure.

Whether you knew him as Carl, Gene, Carl-Gene, or Gene-Carl, he was a loyal friend. He enjoyed many friendships over the years in Citrus County. Some of those include: Playing chess with Charles Magill at the veterinary clinic; chess with Jim Swartz which usually included lunch from Ferrara's deli in Beverly Hills (he spoke often of the eggplant casserole!); Tuesday lunches with John Sullivan (his oldest and dearest friend. John was Jeannie's brother, and Carl taught him to drive), Dave Langer, Joey Fallon, and others; poker and Texas Hold 'Em games; and Gin Rummy with Bob Longtin.

Carl lived in the same apartment for over 40 years. He saw many neighbors come and go, but he made sure to get to know each of them. Even though he had his own health struggles, he would take his neighbors to doctor appointments, the grocery store, and other errands. If you were in the hospital and he knew about it, you could count on visits from Carl.

Most of all, Carl was devoted to his family. He kept in touch with his mother-in-law after his divorce, often visiting her in Tampa and dancing with her in the kitchen while singing, "Nellie,

put your belly next to mine". When his mother had cancer he would drive to Tampa most days to see her. His son had Type 1 Diabetes, and Carl would drive to Shands every day after work to spend time with him when he was in the hospital. He adored his grandchildren, and developed a special relationship with each one based on shared interests including politics and fighter planes.

His relationship with his oldest grandson, David, was particularly close, and David was always willing to help Carl out. Sometimes that meant answering a call for car trouble, and other times it was for physical or medical care. No matter what Carl needed help with, David (and his wife, Dawn) was quick to respond.

Carl suffered many losses in his life, but he never complained, and he just loved those he had even more. His father and both brothers died in the 1960's, his sister and mother in the 1970's, and his son in 1995.

Among those that Carl loved and leaves behind are his daughter Cindy Corcoran (Robert); grandsons David (Dawn), Elijah, Isaac, Noah, and Seth; great grandchildren Colin, Sophie, and Gemma; John & Mary Sullivan (brother-in-law); nieces and nephews Dennis, Michael, and David Watkins, Susan Sullivan, Tina Adams (Tim), Brian Sullivan (Lisa), Trey and Bekkah Adams, and Caleb, Haddon, and Joy Sullivan; and many friends that he loved dearly.

The family wants to sincerely thank all those who loved Carl so well. Thank for you for the friendship, laughter, prayers, and memories that you shared with him. A special thank you to the doctors and medical personnel that helped to give us many more years with him than we expected to have. Thank you to Dr. Sunil Gandhi; Dr. Michael Desautel, Dr. Abraham (and Jennifer!), Dr. Lakshmi Padala, and others as well as their wonderful staff.

Tuesday, July 18, 2017, was not the end of Carl's life. It was the beginning of his eternity in heaven with his Savior, Jesus Christ. On Saturday, July 15, 2017, Carl prayed to receive Christ as his Lord and Savior. At 7:29 p.m. on July 18, Carl breathed his last here on earth and immediately went to join his Savior. Please join us in celebrating Carl's memory and the glorious life he is living now. On Monday, July 24th at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Inverness, Florida there will be visitation from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and a memorial service at 6:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Carl's name to the Building Fund at Christ Community Church, P.O. Box 1394, Inverness, FL 34452. Brown Funeral Home & Crematory in charge of cremation arrangements.

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