



Willard Jerome Swanson

April 15, 1932 - March 25, 2023

Willard (Will) Jerome Swanson was reunited with his beloved Alice on the morning of March 25th, 2023, after a separation of ten weeks. Born in his parents' home in Pierson, Florida, nearly 91 years ago, he never failed to tell friends and family of the blessed life he lived. He was the youngest of five children, and is predeceased by his father Stanley Carl Adolphus Swanson, his mother, Lula Marion Ashcraft Anderson, his brother Edward, and his sisters Mary Orr, Anna Anderson, Verna Kingery, and great-grandson Price Schaub.

He grew up in a very different Florida, and marveled at the life he lived, first as a high school senior who lied about his age to join the National Guard with his friends, then following his older brother Edward as a Naval recruit after graduation. While stationed in San Diego, Will proposed to Alice, and they were married at the North Island Chapel there. Eventually Will left the Navy to join the U.S Air Force, and he was based at McDill AFB, where children Verna and Richard were born. Finally, he joined the U.S. Coast Guard and completed his military career of 22 years with them.

That career took him to Morocco and post-war Japan, to Iceland, to lighthouses and strawberry fields in Michigan, to Cape May, NJ, and the U.S.S. Unimac, a sub-chaser keeping tabs on the Russians along the East Coast, to his retirement in his beloved Florida. Settling in Eau Gallie (Melbourne), he finally got to attend college on the GI Bill, earning an elementary education degree from UCF.

Along with Alice, he was an active member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church and was a proud Mason. He was well-known among generations of neighborhood children as someone who fixed their bicycles and always kept a supply of bike parts on hand for that purpose. He never met a child or an animal he didn't care about and believed in the brotherhood of all mankind.

Will is survived by his children, Verna Brock (Ed), Wakulla Station; Richard Swanson (Kent); Chicago; and Kim Schaub (Dennis), Lake Leelanau. MI; grandchildren Alan Brock, St. Pete; Anna Simmons (Josh) and Eden Rodgers (Brian) Crawfordville; Emma Smith (Matt) Grand Ridge, Katie Jo Gill (Nathan), St. Claire, MI; Dean Schaub (Amelia) Lake Leelanau; Derek Schaub (Olivia), Interlochen, MI; Dylan Schaub (Jordyn) Interlochen, MI; and Dustin Schaub, Suttons Bay, MI. He is also survived by fifteen great-grandchildren: Brennan and Avery Simmons; Harrison and Harper Rodgers; Brooke, Lana, and Kara Smith; Gracie Gill; Carson, Liam, Izibelle, and Penelope Schaub; Elijah and Easton Schaub; and Navy Schaub.

A Memorial Service will be held at the National Cemetery in Tallahassee, on Friday, April 28, 2023, at Noon, to be followed by a gathering and refreshments at the Piney Z clubhouse. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Big Bend Hospice in Tallahassee. bigbendhospice.org; 1723 Mahan Center Blvd. Tallahassee, Florida 32308; 850-878-5310

Skip & Trey Young along with Paula and Kimberly are assisting the family. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

Cemetery Details

Tallahassee National Cemetery

5015 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, FL 32311
<http://www.cem.va.gov>

Previous Events

Full Military Honors Service

APR 28. 12:00 PM (ET)

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