



Mr. Robert Sidney "Bob" Edwards, Sr.

July 10, 1929 - June 24, 2019

Robert Sidney Edwards peacefully entered his eternal reward, embraced in the love of his family and friends, on June 24, 2019, at his home in The Estates at Carpenters, Lakeland, Florida. He will be remembered for his devotion to his family, his diligent practice of the law and his dedication and tireless service to his community.

Born July 10, 1929, in Miami, Fla., Bob was the son of Hugh and Ouida Edwards and grew up in Mayo, Fla. After graduating from Lafayette High School, Bob headed to the University of Florida for undergraduate and law degrees. While serving as a JAG in the U.S. Air Force, Bob was stationed at England Air Force Base in Alexandria, La., where he met the beautiful and charming Carrie Ann Chicola, working at her family grocery store. The two married in 1954 and moved to Plant City, where he built a law practice and they built a life and family of six children.

His law practice primarily focused on corporate, real estate and family law, but in reality he did whatever he could to help his neighbors with their legal and life questions. And if he couldn't find a creative solution to a problem, he would find someone who could help. Often describing himself as just a "country lawyer," few people knew that he argued a case before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1969. He was passionate about serving the community he loved, working night and day to revitalize downtown Plant City. Realizing he

needed to “walk the talk,” he and his law partners led the renovation of the old Wells Building to move their law practice there. He lived to build up the Kingdom of God in every way possible, giving his time, talent and treasure to both the First United Methodist Church and St. Clement Catholic Church, where Carrie and the children worshipped. The pastors and priests asked and Bob always answered the call, never seeking any credit or recognition, preferring to work behind the scenes. His beloved city is dotted with projects he helped succeed, from the Hillsborough Community College campus to the Otis Andrews Sports Complex to the YMCA, to name a few.

An Eagle Scout himself, Bob was honored by the TIMUCUA District of Boy Scouts of America as the Distinguished Citizen of the Year in 2008. He received the Tampa General Hospital Board of Directors award for excellence in governance in 2003 after three terms on the board. He was honored by the YMCA with the George Williams Award for helping establish the YMCA and received the Heritage Award in 2011, for preserving the history of Plant City.

Following the death of his wife, Carrie, in 1986, Bob didn't lament or mourn for long, understanding that the Lord never gives you more than you can handle and that He expects us to embrace the gift of life bestowed on us for service to Him. Bob forged a new chapter of happiness with the faithful and devoted Patricia Mann, his “Patsy Ruth,” and added her daughters to his brood to create a family of nine. Bob and Patt were quite a team, traveling the world from Moscow to Tokyo, all while serving their family, church and community in every possible way.

Saving his best role for later in life, Bob was an incredible Papa to 23 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. He regularly collected sugar (kisses) and although his “horsey” lap always seemed to break, causing a thrilling near-crash to the delight of the little ones, he was always able to return them safely and securely to his lap and its warm embrace. His wisdom

and gentle guidance were much sought after by this younger generation as they grew to understand his lessons on forgiveness, loving selflessly and the importance of making others feel special. His influence on all will be greatly missed.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Carrie Ann Edwards, and his brother, Kenny Edwards. He is survived by his wife, Patt, his sister, Edna Buchanan, sister-in-law Jean Edwards, sister-in-law Cookie Luna, his children, Robbie Ann Lea, Lynn Simeone (Damon), Clare Hicks (Tim), Kay Brown (Jim), Bobby and Brian (Annmarie) Edwards, Barbara Morris, Lynne Ann Bisceglia (Craig) and Nancy Slagle (Bill). He is also survived by his grandchildren, Carrie and Jared Sullivan, Courtney Klein, Michael Peacock, Emily, Christen and Hilary Buckler, Philip, Katie, Patrick, Matt and Teresa Edwards, Michael and Christopher Morris, Shannon Innes, Trisha George, Brian Lewis, Michael and Amy Bisceglia, Lianne Lapierre, Casey, Courtney and Parker Slagle, 22 great-grandchildren and countless nieces and nephews.

The family will receive family and friends on Friday June 28, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church of Plant City, 303 N Evers St., Plant City, FL 33563, where services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday June 29. Interment private at Hopewell Memorial Gardens. Memorial contributions may be made to the First United Methodist Church of Plant City. Expressions of condolence at HopewellFuneral.com.

Cemetery Details

Hopewell Memorial Gardens

6005 County Road 39 South
Plant City, FL 33567
(813) 737-3128
office@hopewellfuneral.com
<https://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 28. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church of Plant City
303 North Evers Street
Plant City, FL 33563
<http://www.firstchurchplantcity.com>

Funeral Service

JUN 29. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church of Plant City
303 North Evers Street
Plant City, FL 33563
<http://www.firstchurchplantcity.com>

Tribute Wall

JM

“ *Mr. Robert Sidney Edwards Sr. Born Wednesday July 10, 1929 and Was Welcomed Into Jesus's Very Loving Precious Arms On Monday June 24, 2019. His First Wife Mrs. Carrie Chicora Edwards 1934 - 1986. His Second Wife Mrs. Patricia Ruth Mann Edwards. Happy 130th Birthday To Mr. Robert Sidney Edwards Sr's Very Loving Precious Graceful Grandmother Full Of Grace Mrs. Nancy Arebell Hatcher Hart She Married Barney Hart On Tuesday December 5, 1905 In Lafayette County, Florida. Mrs. Nancy Arebell Hatcher Hart "Grandma Hart" Was Born On Sunday June 30, 1889 and Was Welcomed Into Jesus's Very Loving Precious Arms On Wednesday February 6, 1974. Dr. Alan L. Beaver and I Love You Very Much Always Mr. Robert Sidney Edwards Sr.*



Jason Mattair - July 01, 2019 at 12:03 AM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert Sidney "Bob" Edwards, Sr..*



June 28, 2019 at 11:43 AM

SB

“ *Long time friend, former neighbor, and counselor, he was best friend to my late husband, Gene Bradley. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Sally Bradley*

sally Bradley - June 28, 2019 at 10:28 AM

BE

Thank you, Mrs. Bradley. I have many fond memories of going to your house many times with Dad. Best, Brian

Brian Edwards - July 03, 2019 at 07:05 PM

TF

“ *Tim and Traci Farris purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. Robert Sidney "Bob" Edwards, Sr..*



Tim and Traci Farris - June 28, 2019 at 10:19 AM

JM

“ *Jason Mattair lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Sidney "Bob" Edwards, Sr.*



Jason Mattair - June 27, 2019 at 11:20 PM

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“ In Loving Memory Of Mr. Robert Sidney Edwards Sr. "Bob" and His First Wife Carrie Edwards Born On Wednesday July 10,1929 and Was Welcomed Into Jesus's Very Loving Precious Arms On Monday June 24,2019. In Loving Memory Of Bob's Maternal Grandmother "Grandma Hart" Mrs. Nancy Arebell Hart Born On Sunday June 30,1889 and Was Welcomed Into Jesus's Very Loving Precious Arms On Wednesday February 6,1974. I Love You So Very Much Always Bob!!

Jason Mattair - June 27, 2019 at 11:16 PM

GM

“ *Patt, Robbie Ann, Lynn, Clare, Kay, Bobby and Brian: So many fond memories of the good times our families spent together. You are in our thoughts and our prayers! We thank our Heavenly Father that both our families were blessed with wonderful Earthly Fathers.*

*Gary Sawyer
for the Sawyer family*

Gary Sawyer M.A.,LMHC - June 27, 2019 at 02:17 PM

JS

“ *Jason Sharp-Doha, Qatar, Darek Sharp & Ryan Sharp purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Mr. Robert Sidney "Bob" Edwards, Sr..*



Jason Sharp-Doha, Qatar, Darek Sharp & Ryan Sharp - June 27, 2019 at 09:08 AM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert Sidney "Bob" Edwards, Sr..*



June 26, 2019 at 03:36 PM



“ *I Love You So Very Much Bob and I Always Will!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Everytime I Got The Chance To See You,I Would Just Light Up and You Would As Well and I Would Go Exactly Right To You and Give You A Very Big Huge Hug and I Was Always So Happy That I Could Cry" Meaning Happy Tears!" You Were A Very Loving, Very Sweet, Very Wonderful Christian Man and So Very Humble and You Will Always Hold A Very Special Place In My Heart!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Tomorrow,It Will Be Exactly 6 Years Ago and It Was On A Thursday That Year,But On Thursday June 27,2013 We Were In A Group Meeting A Our Church First United Methodist Church and We Were Talking About What Grace Means and You Said With One Of Your Arms Going Up Like You Did and You Said "Let's Discuss This,Let's Discuss Grace" and You Also Said "There Was Not A Better Example Of Grace Than Your Grandma Hart!" That Was Bob's Maternal Grandmother and She Was A Very Loving Precious Sweet Lady and I Know That's Were My Best Friend and Brother Bob Got His From!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I Love You Very Much Always Mr. Robert Sidney Edwards Wednesday July 10,1929 - Monday June 3,2019*



Jason Mattair - June 26, 2019 at 02:02 PM

FO

“ *Bob was a wonderful kind man and I was proud to have known him
plant city lost a fine citizen and I will truly miss him RIP my friend*

Franklin oneal - June 26, 2019 at 12:41 PM