



William O Lessard

DEC 24, 1932 - JUL 27, 2020



Scan to Visit

*Memorial
Plan*SM
Cemeteries & Funeral Homes

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5



William O Lessard

DEC 24, 1932 - JUL 27, 2020

William O. Lessard Lt. Col USAF Ret. born December 24th 1932 in Springfield Ma. to William J. and Amanda Lessard and died July 27, 2020 in Homestead , FL. He is survived by his wife Patricia Lessard, daughter Gigi Mashburn (Mike Mashburn) Hood River, OR and daughter Wendy Wilber, Gainesville, FL and grandchildren William Mashburn, Lydia Mashburn, and Sophia Wilber, and sisters Beverly Hoover and Pauline McDonough, also step children Michael Frey, West Kendall, FL and Vickye Ashton, San Jose, CA. Predeceased by his wife of 50 years Amelia 'Suzie' Lessard and daughter Mona Lessard Mead, and sister Rita Courchene.

Bill grew up in Jaffrey, NH where he loved hunting and exploring. He attended UNH and began his career in the USAF where he served in the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He was a decorated fighter pilot and flew 100 combat missions in his favorite jets the F-105 and F-104. He retired from the Air Force and Air Force Reserves after 27 years of service. After his Air Force active duty he settled in to farming in the Redlands in 1968 while still serving in the Air Force Reserves. Bill was always an innovator and was up for trying something new. He grew many different types of fruit trees in addition to avocados and mangos. He was a member of the South Florida Rare Fruit Council and the founding president of the Tropical Fruit and Vegetable Society of Redland. He was well known for his fruit tree and banana nursery. He loved travelling to Central and South America looking for new fruits to bring back to Florida. The sugar apple 'Lessard Thai' bears his name and his book The Complete Book of Bananas is still used as a banana growing resource.

He was an avid fisherman and SCUBA and free diver. If he couldn't catch the fish on a hook and line he was over the side with his spear gun. He was woodturner and a past president of the South Florida Woodturners guild. He enjoyed working with the wood and mentoring new turners. Bill was a member of the St. John's Episcopal Church community and relied heavily on his Christian faith. Deep into his retirement he loved to play cribbage and enjoy wine or a rum and tonic and watch the Dolphins lose.



Obituary

William O Lessard

DEC 24, 1932 - JUL 27, 2020

Arrangements made by Branam funeral home. The memorial service will be delayed due to COVID-19. An apt expression of condolence would be to plant a fruit tree in his honor.



Tribute Wall

William O Lessard

DEC 24, 1932 - JUL 27, 2020

SR

Steven Roy posted:

Hi my name is Steven Roy from Jaffrey N.H. I know Bill's parents and his sister. When I was sixteen I spent a month in the summer working on his farm picking bananas. I remember going to the beach for the day and ending up in the hospital for a week before coming home. Rest in peace Bill.

August 3 at 12:22 PM

DW

David Woods posted:

RIP, my brother! i'm so glad i had a chance to meet you! my thoughts are with all your loved ones!Sleep softly brother manFor your bed is neatly made

August 1 at 12:19 PM

SJ

Sharon Jones posted:

Bill was a good friend to me and always there when I needed a friend.

August 1 at 3:51 AM

BM

Bill And Jill Moran posted:

Thank you, Bill, for being a gracious host and teaching us a bit about exotic fruits. Now that we're are permanent residents of Florida, we're enjoying planting fruits, vegetables and all kinds of flowers. You were and are a very kind man. Rest in peace my friend.

July 31 at 3:42 PM

SJ

Sharon Jones August 1 at 3:39 AM

Thank you Bill for all of the help you gave me in starting my grove, from helping me to lay it out, to doing all of the proper things necessary to make the trees healthy and productive, I learned a great deal from you.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring William by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit

