



Beryl N. Stokes Jr. "Sonny"

October 30, 1933 - March 10, 2023

Beryl N. Stokes, Jr. "Sonny" passed away peacefully at his home in Leesburg on Friday March 10, 2023. He was where he wanted to be with his dog Rowdy and family by his side. He was born October 30, 1933 in Lake Panasoffkee to Beryl Newton Stokes and Ethyl Parker Stokes, and was the devoted widower of his wife of many years, Jo Anne Ayers Stokes. Beryl is survived by his children Toni Stokes Marshall, Lauren Stokes-McClurg (Leroy) and Sandy Stokes (Karen) who will mourn his loss forever. He dearly loved all of his grandchildren, Meagan, Ben, Cady, Courtney, Chelsea, and Sasha as well as his great grandchildren.

Beryl attended Leesburg High School and remained close to his classmates until the end of his life. He was a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity at the University of Florida and was a pilot in the Air Force. Travel was one of his passions and he almost achieved his goal of sleeping in every time zone across the planet. He was an astute businessman dedicating most of his life to the family business his father founded.

After retiring from Stokes Fish Company, Beryl ventured into the world of thoroughbred racing. He loved the horses passionately. Mostly, he loved the people he met and they returned that love and respect for him threefold. It was through his venture into that world that one could see his true character, his kindness and fairness and integrity. He built a legacy because that was

who he was.

Like Jody, he loved his St. James Episcopal church and the friends he made through a lifetime. It was his place of solace and comfort. And a place he could feel close to God.

He was a loving and optimistic man who led a glorious life. He touched so many lives in deep and important ways. Most of all he would want us to be happy we knew him.

Godspeed to our sweet, funny, one-of-a-kind father.

Immediately following the St. James service, everyone is invited to the Legends Ballroom, Mission Inn.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Leesburg, Florida.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St James Episcopal Church
204 Lee St
Leesburg, FL 34748-4915
(352) 787-1981

Tribute Wall



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Beryl N. Stokes Jr. "Sonny".*



April 17, 2023 at 02:27 PM



“ *Marylen lit a candle in memory of Beryl N. Stokes Jr. "Sonny"*



Marylen - April 15, 2023 at 12:27 AM



“ *Heartfelt sympathy and prayers for the family. Beryl was a wonderful person and dear friend of Jim's mom, Betty and his dad, Jim. They were great traveling buddies together to the mountains of NC, England, and California. Over the past few years, Beryl would drive down from Maggie Valley to Black Mountain, NC to pick up Betty to spend time with Jody and him. They actually hosted Jim's parents 60th Wedding Anniversary at their beautiful home. We will remember the sweet memories. They are all together again! 💜*

Marylen & Jim Hastings - April 15, 2023 at 12:26 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Beryl N. Stokes Jr. "Sonny".*



April 12, 2023 at 03:18 PM



“ *Beryl Stokes was one of the dearest men I have ever known. When I think of him, I see that little smile that he had. It hovered about his face and lit up his eyes in a way that made everyone around him want to smile too. He was a smart businessman, but, even more, he had great wisdom about the world and the people in it. He was a quiet man who never bragged about his many successes in life. In fact, he was never afraid to laugh at himself or laugh with you about those funny things that life throws our way to ground us as we travel through this world. He and Jodi were always supportive of me throughout my life. I will always hold both of them in my heart with the deepest love and respect.*

Jerri Blair - April 03, 2023 at 04:13 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Beryl N. Stokes Jr. "Sonny".*



March 21, 2023 at 02:47 PM

NT

“ Nancy, Brooke & Carl Tucker lit a candle in memory of Beryl N. Stokes Jr. "Sonny"



Nancy, Brooke & Carl Tucker - March 18, 2023 at 08:50 AM

BS

“ Bunky Standridge lit a candle in memory of Beryl N. Stokes Jr. "Sonny"



Bunky Standridge - March 17, 2023 at 05:23 PM

BF

“ I remember Mr. Stokes when I would go into the fish market with Daddy. He was always so kind. I send prayers to Toni, Lauren and Sandy. Just know he's in heaven with the lord 🙏❤️

Babs Burt Friedman - March 13, 2023 at 01:04 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Beryl N. Stokes Jr. "Sonny".



March 13, 2023 at 12:12 PM