



## Christian John Stockel

October 28, 1931 - June 30, 2015

### Obituary of Christian Stockel

Christian John Stockel, LEESBURG - Mr. Chris Stockel of Leesburg, FL, formerly of Tucker, GA, died peacefully the morning of June 30th, 2015. He was 83 years of age. Born October 28th, 1931 in Perth Amboy, NJ, he later moved to Woodbridge, NJ where he graduated from Woodbridge High School in 1950. He served in the US Naval Reserves 1948-1949 and then formally enlisted in the United States Navy in 1950. He served as an Aviation Machinist Mate 3rd Class aboard the aircraft carrier, USS Bon Homme Richard, in 1952 during the Korean War. He served honorably until 1954, when he was released from service. On October 24th, 1954, he married his sweetheart, Ruth Hrdlicka. In 1957, he would use his naval drafting skills with Cooper Alloy Corp., working as a mechanical draftsman. From 1962 until 1965 he served as a Production Supervisor for both Piels Brewery, Staten Island, NY and OTD Terminals Corp./Union Carbide in Perth Amboy, NJ. From 1965 until 1974 he was Sales Engineer and Representative for Standard Knapp Corp., a job which led the family to Tucker, GA in 1967. In the 1970s he volunteered his time and skills providing and maintaining the fields and facilities at Fitzgerald Field in Tucker, GA. His time there impacted thousands of young lives. He took much pride in his work and it showed. It was also during his time working at Fitzgerald that he realized his passion for the lighting industry. For him, it was the perfect combination of trigonometry,

aesthetic and necessity. He decided to put this dream to use and open his own business. "Work for yourself, and you'll never work another day in your life," he always said. So, in 1980 he founded Metro Outdoor Lighting. If you ever parked your car at any mall in the Metro Atlanta area, the lights in the parking lot were most likely courtesy of Metro Outdoor. He would close the doors in 2004 and retire to Leesburg, FL, at the age of 72.

Chris was driven by his inquisitive mind. If he lacked knowledge to do something, he would find the resources to figure out how to accomplish it. If he didn't know how an object worked, it would be disassembled and then reassembled, most of the time back in working order. He took pride in absolutely every job and task he took to. He was a man full of generosity, full of flaws, full of love, full of ideas. He will be fully missed.

Chris is survived by his wife of 60 years, Ruth Stockel; his two children, Ginger (Stockel) Varnum, of Charlotte, NC, C. J. Stockel, Jr. and wife Meleisa of Flowery Branch, GA; three grandchildren, Courtney and husband Jay of Charlotte, NC, Madison and Hope of Flowery Branch, GA; and one great-grandchild, Abigail.

# Tribute Wall

MS

“ Ruth--So sorry to hear about Chris. You have my deepest heart felt sympathy God Bless you and your family during this difficult time. Love and regards, Cousin Mark (Largo, Fl.)

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**Mark Stockel** - July 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GH

“ Ginger, So sorry to hear about the loss of your Dad; prayers to you and yours of comfort. Gail

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**Gail McCondichie Hawkins** - July 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Dear Family, May Jehovah God comfort you during this time of loss. Though there may be little that can be said or done to ease your pain, may you find comfort in knowing that many care and sympathize with your sadness. Always know that Jehovah God is with you to strengthen and guide you. May your trust in his promise of a resurrection bring you peace. - Acts 24:15 Warm Regards, K. L. Banks

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**K.L. Banks** - July 08, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ER

“ Dear Ginger, Courtney, Abigail and family This is a beautiful tribute to what sounds like a wonderful man! How fortunate you are to have had him as a part of your lives! May peace come to you, soon. Elaine

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**Elaine Rudolph** - July 07, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ My best memories of your Husband, Dad and Grandpop are his excitement and joy when he was giving to others. It brought a lot of joy to him to do so. His very big heart and zest for life will be missed by many who knew him. Our thoughts and sympathy are with you at his passing.... Pattie and Rich

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**Pattie Guarnieri and Rich McClerin** - July 06, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ I was deeply saddened to receive the news this morning that my friend, Chris Stockel, had passed away. His influence and footprint on the Tucker community will be sorely missed. Every child that ever played at Fitzgerald Field in Tucker, Georgia owes Chris Stockel for the fact that they played on the best fields in the Atlanta area. It is impossible to estimate the amount of time and money donated by the Stockel family to the Tucker Football League. I can remember numerous times that I would call Chris about a power outage or lights being out. He never was too busy to drop everything and come right away and fix the problem. He was not going to have the kids miss a game. In my 20 some years working with Chris at the Tucker Football League, he never sent us a bill. The world will be a lesser place and I will have a hole in my heart with his passing. Love to his family and lovely bride, Ruth.

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**Randall S. Rolader** - July 06, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ I saw Chris' obituary in the Atlanta paper and immediately knew who he was. I met him only once but heard Ruth speak of him and their family many times. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Stockels and especially to Ruth with whom I worked for a number of years.

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**Mary Neill Lester** - July 05, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss Truly i am. Cousin Jeri*

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**Jerilyn Jefferis** - July 03, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *My thought and prayers are with you all at this sad time. Lot's of love.*

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**Jane Kennedy** - July 02, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Christian John Stockel*

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July 02, 2015 at 12:00 AM