



Hjalmar E. French

October 4, 1940 - May 22, 2024

Hjalmar E. French, of The Plantation at Leesburg, died May 22, 2024, in Leesburg Hospital Florida. He died unexpectedly, but peacefully, of Pancreatitis. He was 83 years old.

Hjalmar was born October 4, 1940, in Wyandotte, Michigan. He graduated from Roosevelt High School in Wyandotte. He enlisted in the United States Navy in 1959, where he served aboard the U.S.S. Oriskany and USS Coral Sea during Vietnam. During his service he served as a Naval Aircrewman, Jet Mechanic and Administration man in both rotary and fixed wing aircraft. Senior Chief Petty Officer Hjalmar E. French was honorably retired in 1979. Hjalmar continued his service supporting the Navy as the Executive Director of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society headquartered at Whidbey Island, Washington, from 1980 until 1991 where he finished his working career to enjoy full retirement.

Hjalmar loved all things technical and was proud to support The Plantation residents and others with their computer setups, updates and repairs. He loved ballroom dancing, camping, motor homing, boating, fishing, hunting, car mechanics, wood working, pool, golf and 40 plus years of bowling with his wife Dell and many friends. He was proud of his perfect bowling score of "300". He enjoyed all the golfing groups he played with over the years. One of his proudest moments was scoring a golf game of 75 when he was 75 years

old. Hjalmar enjoyed spending time with all his family and friends and all who visited the guest house.

Hjalmar is survived by his children: Son Donald Davis (Judy) and their children, son Connor Davis (Rumor Hayes), daughter Courtney Levang (Andrew); Son Danny Davis (preceded in death) his children, son Grason Davis (Amber) daughter Christine Tareen (Haider); Son Ralph French (Paula) and their children, daughter Anne Johnson (Shane), son Carl Sparks (Melissa), son Hjalmar French; Daughter Darlene Childress (Allen) and their children, son Alexander Childress (Jennifer), daughter Jamie Childress; Daughter Hjalma Travis (Don) and their children, daughter Brandy Riesner (Chris), son Danny Williams (Kathryn) and son Nelson Williams (Ashley). Hjalmar French is also survived by 20 great grandchildren, 1 great-great grandchild and many nieces and nephews. Hjalmar was preceded in death by his parents, Edmund and Hulda French, all siblings, brothers William, Robert, Ralph, John and sister Janet.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Ashley Hall, Plantation Clubhouse, 1:00-4:00 pm on June 28, 2024, Leesburg, Florida. His ashes will be spread in Washington state by his granddaughter Christine were his wife, Lovadell French were spread.

In lieu of flowers please send donations on Hjalmar's behalf to the "Navy and Marine-Corp Relief Society via <https://support.nmcrs.org/a/homepage>.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN **28**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Ashley Hall / Plantation Clubhouse
Leesburg, FL 34748

Tribute Wall

KI

“ I just shared this with my father, Jim Imler” that was in the Navy with “Frenchie” and saddened to hear the news. They were good friends. He would like to be contacted by the family, if possible at jimler1941@gmail.com or (928) 308-0062.

Kevin Imler - March 19, 2025 at 08:17 PM

CC

“ I live across the street. Always fun to joke with.gave me great advice.I’m going to miss having a good friend and neighbor. 😞

Chris Chekas - June 11, 2024 at 04:04 AM

PL

“ My wife and I moved in next door to Hjalmar in October of 2023. It probably took us 3 months to just learn how to pronounce his name! Not sure if he remembered mine either, but he'd always greet me with "Hey neighbor!" I'm not a golfer or military veteran, but my oldest brother is a Vietnam Veteran and I served in the Peace Corps. I can't really bowl that well anymore either, but I did enjoy chatting with him about his bowling, camping and military experiences. A couple days before Hjalmar went into the hospital, he was helping me with some problems I was having with my cell phone and computer.

The following day Hjalmar knocked on my front door and handed me an American Flag saying "I hope you don't feel insulted, but I bought you this on Amazon". Our flag was in terrible shape from a previous storm and I just didn't get around to replacing it! I promptly put it up the next morning and thanked him again. That evening he went into the hospital and we never saw him again! I can't help thinking of him every time I look at that flag! That was so thoughtful and kind of him!

Phil Levy - June 08, 2024 at 07:33 PM