



## Robert Kirkland

November 10, 1928 - February 8, 2016

### Obituary of Robert Kirkland

Robert "Bob" Kirkland passed away on Monday, February 8, 2016, joining his mother, Eurell Kirkland Blackmon and father, Mance Kirkland, and siblings, Sybil (John) Chalbeck, Hazel (Frank) Michyalik, Lowell (Betty) Kirkland, Earl Blackmon, Jr. (step-brother), and grandchildren, Kirk and Tristan. Born in Wauchula, Florida, on November 10, 1928, he moved as a child with his family to Leesburg, Florida. He attended the local schools, graduating from Leesburg High School in 1946. Shortly after graduating, Bob joined the US Navy, where he served for 20 years as an air traffic controller. He traveled abroad (serving in the Philippines and Italy) without ever having a tour of duty on a Navy ship (maybe because he always took his family with him). After retiring from the Navy, Bob attended Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, earning a BS in Education...no mean feat for a man that had been out of high school for over 20 years. Upon graduation, Bob received a call from a long-time friend telling him of a vacancy at Leesburg High School in the Industrial Arts Department. He was interviewed and hired, and he spent the next 20 years teaching various aspects of industrial arts (specializing in woodworking) to generations of young people. It's safe to say that there are many homes in Lake County that still have wooden fruit bowls, candle sconces, and other "Shop Projects" on display. After retiring from his second career, Bob spent his time building projects in his workshop, combing flea

markets for unique tools, and riding around on his lawn tractor. He loved spending summers at the family cabin (Camp Wahnfried) in Maine where he helped create magical memories for two generations of Kirkland kids. Bob was very involved with the Leesburg Civitan and was no stranger to folks lining up at the BBQ cooker for a Civitan fundraiser. He also invested much time helping folks at his church and in the community. Bob loved to cook (and mess up the kitchen), and he was known for a variety of delicious cookies. He also loved Hawaiian shirts, peanut brittle, Westerns, Tom Clancy novels, cribbage, and McDonald's frappes. He hated orange juice.

Bob is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mina, six Kirkland Creations: Shirley (Cliff) Quinn (Victoria, BC), Robert Jr. (Kim) (New Gloucester, Maine), Edward (Nancy) (Eustis), Patrick (Clermont), Rebecca (Jon) Redding (Fruitland Park), and Scott (Susie) (Fruitland Park); fourteen grandchildren: Jimmy, Dennis, Amanda, Susan, Bobby, Ted, Jessica, Patrick Jr., Daniel, Sarah, Grace, Kitty, Maddy, and Knowlen; and six great-grandchildren: Westen, Luke, Charley, Max, Makenzie, and Carl Jr.

A memorial service will be held at Beyer's Funeral Home in Leesburg on Saturday, February 20, 2016 at 11:00 am. A Celebration of Life will follow at First Presbyterian Church on Lone Oak in Leesburg immediately following the service. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a donation to the Leesburg Civitan in memory of Bob Kirkland...and maybe enjoy a chocolate chip cookie or two in his honor.

# Tribute Wall

MW

“ *Bob Kirkland will always be one of my favorite people. His sense of humor and zest for life was absolutely contagious. His wife and family are among our favorite people. We will always love you, keep you in our hearts, and share in your loss. Farewell Dear Friend, you were such a blessing. Thank you! Love, Mary Ann Williams xoxoxo*

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**Mary Ann Williams** - February 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *Thought and prayers for the family*

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**The Connell Family** - February 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

EW

“ *Bob will be missed by former students and friends. He was a great teacher and role model for his students at Leesburg High School. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.*

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**evelyn & ellis wiley** - February 19, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ *We're incredibly sorry for your loss. I will always cherish the memories at camp and the time spent with grandpa. Michael, Faryn, Hunter and Harrison Root*

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**Mike Root** - February 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ *Mina, Becca an family, So sorry to hear of Bob's passing. I enjoyed serving at church with him at New Life for so many years. God Bless you and your family today an always! Debbie Schonauer*

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**Debbie Willis Schonauer** - February 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ To Scott and all of the Kirkland family. I pray that the Lord will grant you all peace in this sorrowful time. I have many items that were made in his shop class. I love you guys and if there is anything my family can do for your family, just know I am just a phone call away. Love to you all!!!

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**Tonja (James) Chatman** - February 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ My thoughts and prayers to the entire extended family. He is & was a credit to LHS.

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**Bill Hayes** - February 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ The Kirkland Family is a 'giving' family. And it is easy to see where all that 'thinking of other's' comes from. I am thankful to have been part of some of the Kirkland Adventures. Hello to all of you Kirkland's in Central Florida. I miss hanging around with your family. A big HELLO to especially Mina, and Becca and Ed. I was around you the most , and I know how much you loved your dad. The Kirkland's always live each day to the fullest- just taking after their dad !....."Susie Clermont"

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**Susan Reddell** - February 15, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Robert Kirkland

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February 12, 2016 at 12:00 AM