



Andrew "Ward" Edwards

March 12, 1935 - June 13, 2022

Andrew Wardlaw (Ward) Edwards Jr. passed away peacefully on June 12, 2022

A life-long resident of Polk County, Ward was born on March 12, 1935 in Bartow, Florida to Andrew Wardlaw and Pauline Burrignt Edwards. He was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers, Jerry Edwards, David Edwards and Jim Edwards.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Ann Edwards; daughter, Kim Wilbanks (Jim) of Lakeland, son, Andy Edwards (Kristie) of Niceville; five grandchildren, Jay Wilbanks(Gracyn) of Nashville, Katelyn Foote (Tim) of Birmingham, Andrew Edwards of Orlando, Cecelia and Sophia Edwards of Niceville. He is also survived by his three sisters; Mary Jean Swanson of Kansas, Sallie Blasingame of Lakeland and Polly Manship of Darlington, South Carolina and many nieces and nephews.

Ward graduated from Lakeland High School in 1953, the first class to graduate from the new building on Bartow Highway. He attended Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama, Florida Southern College and The University of Florida. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard for four years along with his brothers. He started out as a surveyor for his father's surveying company but spent the bulk of his career working for Publix Super Markets, primarily as a master baker at Southgate Danish Bakery and Food World at Lake Miriam Square. He also worked in the Produce department and Deli as a Deli

Coordinator. After retiring from Publix, he worked for All-American Food Services for several years. He was also a philanthropist, supporting St. Joseph's School, Lakeland Christian School, Florida Southern College, Florida Baptist Childrens Homes/One More Child, The Salvation Army, Lakeland Regional Health and Bonnet Springs Park. He and his wife, Ann, were both awarded Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters Degrees from Florida Southern College in 2021.

He loved spending time at Anna Maria Island from the time he was a young boy until recently. He also enjoyed the mountains of North Carolina, especially when he was playing golf with his wife and friends. Travel was a favorite pastime when he was younger; ski trips, golf trips, family trips or exploring many different countries with his wife. In the past few years, he mainly enjoyed spending time with friends he has known since his school days. Ward was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church where he also attended elementary school. As a young man, he was in the Jaycee's, serving as president one year.

A funeral mass will be held at St. Anthony's Church on Saturday, June 18, 2022 at 11:00 AM with a time of visitation before the service starting at 10:00 AM. The family will welcome guests for a reception at Lone Palm Golf Club following the service.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to St. Joseph's Church, FBCH/One More Child, Florida Southern College, The Salvation Army or Bonnet Springs Park in Ward's honor.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Anthony's Catholic Church
820 Marcum Road
Lakeland, FL

Funeral Mass

JUN 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Anthony's Catholic Church
820 Marcum Road
Lakeland, FL

Tribute Wall



“ *Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Andrew "Ward" Edwards*



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - June 16, 2022 at 04:23 PM

SM

The memory album was awesome. Such a wonderful tribute, Thoughts and prayers are with you all today.
Sandy Maxwell

Sandy Maxwell - June 18, 2022 at 09:25 AM



“ *Andrew "Ward" Edwards*

November 17, 2022 at 10:14 AM

LT

“ *So sorry for your loss, he was a kind and gentle man*
Linda Terry

Linda Terry - June 22, 2022 at 08:06 AM

DW

“ Ann , so sad to hear about Ward's passing. He was such a kind and warm gentleman. He always smiled when I would see him and was always very respectful. We pray for you and your family. We wish you lots of Love as you honor his life. Doug Wimberly

Doug Wimberly - June 19, 2022 at 08:10 AM

KC

“ Anne, Kim, Andy and family, we are so sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers during this time.

Karen Collins

Karen Collins - June 18, 2022 at 08:53 AM

DM

“ Ann & family,
Please accept our deepest sympathy and sincerest regrets on the loss of your dearest partner and our good friend, Ward. You and Ward were such examples to all of us and we thank you for over 70 years of friendship. We are Blessed. Beth & Dick Mason

dick mason - June 14, 2022 at 08:26 PM

MN

Ann, so very sorry to hear of your loss. Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers as we grieve with you Ward's passing. My memories abound of your generosity and treating us Nutter kids like family. I especially remember the awesome playground equipment you had in the back yard on Staunton and the fun we had rocking as fast as we could on those spring-mounted rides. I also recall vividly trimming the grass around that equipment with those now vintage hand operated yard scissors after mowing your yard for you. We have enjoyed being connected with you through social media of late and experiencing the joy you all have had wining and dining together with your close friends there at Lone Palm. I am also excited for you and anticipating an opportunity to visit the new park that you and Ward were so deeply involved in bringing to our hometown. I consider it a privilege that I can reminisce of our past and hope that the connection with you through social media remains as you keep the Edwards traditions going strong into the future. God bless you all. Michael Nutter.

Michael Nutter - June 15, 2022 at 02:33 PM