



John Robert Falkenham

November 21, 1931 - November 21, 2024

John Robert Falkenham was born November 21, 1931, in St. Johnsbury, Vermont; the only child of John Jacob and Zylpha Harriet Petrie Falkenham. He died on his birthday, November 21, 2024, in Lakeland, Florida.

Though he was born in Vermont John spent his childhood in the Miami area, graduating from Miami Dade High School. He served as a cryptographer in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1956 spending some of that time in South Korea. After leaving the Army he enrolled in the University of New Hampshire, receiving a bachelor's degree in 1958. He spent his entire working career with the U.S. government working primarily in procurement.

John was a proficient sailor and once was the proud owner of a sailboat capable of oceangoing. He obtained his pilot certification and was a member of the U.S. Power Squadron in Orlando.

He is predeceased by his wife of 46 years, Alice Louise McCraw Falkenham, whom he considered the light of his life. They were fortunate enough to spend time in Saudi Arabia where they were able to travel throughout Europe and the Middle East. They enjoyed traveling and a highlight of their adventures was a cruise to Alaska. Although he and Alice lived in several states during their careers, they returned to Florida and retired in Lakeland.

John and Alice both felt strongly about the benefits of an education and were ardent supporters of The Florida Southern College of Arts, the University of South Florida Public Media, and WEDU PBS television station. Even though he had no children of his own nor siblings, he “adopted” Alice’s family as his own. He took an interest in many of Alice’s nieces and nephews, introducing them to the performing arts and encouraging them to get a good education.

He is survived by his cousins Richard Petrie and Carolyn Petrie Mefford, both of San Diego, CA.

Tribute Wall

CM

“ Johnny and Alice with the California kids and Paul II. Wonderful memories.



Carol Mefford - November 27, 2024 at 12:30 PM

RP

“ Johnny was like a big brother to me. When I was a kid growing up in New Jersey, Johnny would often visit. We played football, baseball, went to the beach and built model cars together. He was so much fun to be with. In later years Johnny and I did a lot of sailing on the west coast, including a trip from Long Beach to Santa Catalina Island. In the early 70's he introduced me to Alice, the love of his life. Throughout the years Johnny and Alice were always enthusiastically interested in how and what we and our families were involved with. They remained young at heart throughout the years. With loving memories, Richard A. Petrie

Richard A Petrie - November 26, 2024 at 01:28 PM

MM

“ Uncle Johnny and Aunt Alice were so fun and enthusiastic. They were possibly the most in-love couple I ever knew. They could truly finish each other’s sentences. I was in Orlando for a convention and I had a night free so I invited them to join me for dinner. We had such a delightful time. We shared stories and for the first time I felt like I wasn’t a kid but finally one of the adults in my family. They were so warm and kind. No distractions or holidays...just family having a nice evening together. I’m really lucky to have had that marvelous time with them. I will miss them both. I’m Monica Mosack, daughter of Carolyn Petrie Mefford. Uncle Johnny is my first cousin once removed.



Monica Mosack - November 25, 2024 at 11:00 PM