



Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" F Callaway

September 15, 1932 - March 9, 2020

The Honorable Ronald "Ronnie" F. Callaway of Foley, AL, first Mayor of Orange Beach, passed away peacefully at his home in Foley, AL, March 9, 2020, attended by his daughter, grand-daughter, son-in-law, and Foley Hospice. Ronnie is the son of Rafael and Forrest Callaway of Orange Beach, AL.

Ronnie grew up in Mobile and Baldwin Counties and became familiar with the local waterways. He attended high school at UMS and Murphy and later received a General Educational Development diploma. He enlisted in the Alabama National Guard as an artilleryman 1948-1954, and was called to active duty with the U.S. Army 1950-1952. Following military service, Ronnie graduated from the University of Alabama in 1957 with a BS in Physics. He held positions with Lockheed, NASA, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In 1978 he obtained a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and Surveying from the University of South Alabama and started his own firm. In 1984 he ran for election as the first mayor of the newly incorporated city of Orange Beach, being responsible for organizing and managing all municipal services for the town. He served two terms until his wife, Margaret, died in 1991. Thereafter, he earned a realtor license and was active for many years. Ronnie maintained his physical fitness through exercise and had a keen interest in National and Alabama politics to the end.

Ronnie had a love of flying, and obtained and maintained a private pilot's license until he passed. He worked hard to become proficient, spent many

hours in the simulator, and earned an FAA instructor license. He flew in military aircraft with his son, Ronald, and took members of his family on private flights in the Southeast. His other interest was charitable contributions, especially for the work of his church, Fisherman Baptist of Bon Secour. Ronnie is survived by a son, Ronald (Pam) of Charlotte, NC, and a daughter, Lynn (Ralph Buck) of Foley. He was preceded in death by a son, Jesse, of Ohio, and wives, Margaret Wooley, Mary, and Anne. Other family members include step-son, Danny Mcduffie (Melanie) of Foley; step-daughter Lisa Mcduffie Wells of Spanish Fort, AL; cousin Ella H. of Foley; nephew Tim (Barbara), of Cumming, GA; Grandchildren Jay (Melody) of Charlotte, NC, Katie Thompson (Chris) of Pittsburgh, Pa, Scott Denton (Barbara) of Hilden, Germany, James McDowell (Angel) of Saraland, AL, Matthew McDowell (Kayse) of Wilmer, AL, Jessica Cater (Nicholas) of Columbus, OH, Melissa Stacy (Timothy) of Chillicothe, OH; and many great-grand children. Ronnie tried to stay in close contact with all his family and enjoyed gatherings at his home with several generations.

Donations in lieu of flowers are requested for Fisherman Baptist Church or a veteran's organization of your choice

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" F Callaway*

October 04, 2023 at 01:12 PM



“ *Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" F Callaway*

November 08, 2022 at 06:34 PM



“ *If you plan to attend the funeral on 19 March, be advised that the church has placed no restrictions on the gathering. Take whatever precautions seem good for you.*

Ralph V Buck - March 14, 2020 at 03:26 PM



Funeral has been suspended due to COVID-19 family travel restrictions. Anticipate October 2020

Ralph V Buck - July 22, 2020 at 09:25 PM



Funeral will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, August 21, 2021 at Pine Rest Funeral Home.

Ralph Buck - August 12, 2021 at 11:50 AM

“ Ronnie understood the sentiment expressed in the following poem:
Flying West

*I hope there's a place, way up in the sky,
Where pilots can go, when they have to die-
A place where a guy can go and buy a cold beer
For a friend and comrade, whose memory is dear;
A place where no doctor or lawyer can tread,
Nor management type would ere be caught dead;
Just a quaint little place, kinda dark and full of smoke,
Where they like to sing loud, and love a good joke;
The kind of place where a lady could go
And feel safe and protected, by the men she would know.*

*There must be a place where old pilots go,
When their paining is finished, and their airspeed gets low,
Where the whiskey is old, and the women are young,
And the songs about flying and dying are sung,
Where you'd see all the fellows who'd flown west before.
And they'd call out your name, as you came through the door;
Who would buy you a drink if your thirst should be bad,
And relate to the others, "He was quite a good lad!"*

*And then through the mist, you'd spot an old guy
You had not seen for years, though he taught you how to fly.
He'd nod his old head, and grin ear to ear,
And say, "Welcome, my son, I'm pleased that you're here.
"For this is the place where true flyers come,
"When the journey is over, and the war has been won
"They've come here at last to be safe and alone
From the government clerk and the management clone,
"Politicians and lawyers, the Feds and the noise
Where the hours are happy, and these good ol' boys
"Can relax with a cool one, and a well-deserved rest;
"This is Heaven, my son -- you've passed your last test!"*

Author: Capt. Michael J. Larkin
Dedicated to: Capt. E. Hamilton Lee

Ralph V Buck - March 13, 2020 at 12:08 PM

M(

“ *Papas Storys and songs he would always tell and always sing!! His funny jokes. When me and my sister was kids, Papa and Mrs.Mary would always take me and Jess on the motorcycle rides and to dolphin island on the ferri.* ”



Melissa Stacy (grand-daughter) - March 12, 2020 at 02:05 PM