



# Merrill P. Friend Jr.

JAN 20, 1933 - OCT 23, 2018



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## **Merrill P. Friend Jr.**

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**M**errill Pons Friend, Jr., 85, passed away on Tuesday, October 23, 2018. Born January 20, 1933 in Norfolk, Virginia, he was the son of the late Merrill P. Friend Sr. and Margaret M. (Moak) Friend.

A native of Aiken, South Carolina, married and raised a family in Tampa, predeceased by his loving wife Patsy B. Friend, he worked for Maryland Casualty/Zurich Corp, a proud member of Tampa Toastmasters.

Survived by his son Christopher Pons Friend (Michelle), daughter Margaret Friend and Paul Coogan, sister-in-law and friend Peggy Ruge, blessed grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He will be greatly missed by all.

He will be laid to rest at Sunset Memory Gardens, 11005 North U.S. Highway 301, Thonotosassa, FL 33592 on Saturday, October 27, 2018 at 12noon.



## Tribute Wall

**Merrill P. Friend Jr.**  
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**Jonelle** posted:

Obviously a man of high esteem, as reflected in how he raised my long-time friend, Maggie Friend. My sincerest condolences to Maggie and Christopher and family. May his memories bring you peace. Jonelle Mangione Cochran

November 22 at 5:09 AM



**Maggie Friend** November 28 at 9:45 PM

Thank you Jonelle. Your compliment would have made my father so happy.



**Paul Coogan** posted:

I have the honor of knowing Merrill both in person and through his daughter. I am grateful for his fostering many of the attributes I admire in Maggie, love of reading, curiosity, and connection to nature to name a few. Merrill's efforts to be a strong father were admirable and though his path was at times difficult, he was believer in the fruits of hard work. Thank you Merrill for all you have done!

November 21 at 6:21 PM



**Maggie Friend** November 28 at 10:47 PM

Definitely attributes that I share with my father. Thank you for seeing that.



**Julie** posted:

What a fine, upstanding and gracious man Merrill was every time I visited his home to see his daughter, Maggie! God now has another angel! Many prayers for his family. Love and hugs, Julie Rytlewski Kemp

November 21 at 5:58 PM



**Maggie Friend** November 28 at 9:46 PM

Thank you for the memory. You were always very welcome in our home.



**Maggie Friend** shared an album called **Memories Album**.

October 25 at 9:54 AM





## Tribute Wall

**Merrill P. Friend Jr.**

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MF

**Maggie Friend** lit a candle in honor of Merrill.

My father was a hard-working man. He worked early mornings before school as a teenager to help support his family. He worked as a young man while attending business school to prepare himself for professional work. Nothing was more important to him than providing for his family and, when we were children, he worked nearly every day to insure that he did. When he retired, my mother became ill and he became, at her insistence, her sole caregiver. When he fell ill, he worked hard to be well again. He rarely had a moments rest but when he did, he spent it fishing or camping. If we were lucky, we got to spend a day with him boating in Tampa Bay, swimming in the Gulf of Mexico, or fishing in the quiet sloughs of the Withlacoochee River. I hope that as his spirit leaves this earth, it travels along these banks and shores. We already miss him more than words can say but I think we will always find him in those clear waters where he found peace in nature.



October 26 at 7:26 AM

CF

**Christopher Friend** lit a candle in honor of Merrill.

I miss you Dad....I know you are in heaven with Mom now and no longer in pain. You have been a great influence in my life...Michelle, Jefferson, and Vanessa love you very much too



October 25 at 9:54 AM

MF

**Maggie Friend** December 1 at 11:30 AM

Thank you Darlene (and Steve) for being such good friends to my Dad this past year. He liked you both very much. You brought him such kindness and joy. I am forever grateful.

DF

**Darlene, Maggie's Graduate School Friend** October 26 at 6:15 PM

I only met him one year and 2 months ago. It was the period when a hurricane was headed to Tampa. We were a bit terrified trying to figure out if we should head out of town. Steve and I went to the house to take him to the hotel for Maggie. He enjoyed telling us stories about Maggie and her brother and his wife. His eyes lit up as he took us inside his life many years ago. I am sorry we didn't meet him sooner and were not able to learn more about his life. When we saw him 2 days before he passed away, he was waiting for Maggie to come. I am glad he had Maggie's comfort when he passed away and that he didn't suffer for many years. He will be remembered for his rich stories. May you rest in peace Mr. Friend.



**Maggie Friend** shared 3 photos to the **Memories Album** album.

November 20 at 1:11 PM





**Media**

**Merrill P. Friend Jr.**  
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# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Merrill by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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