



Merrill P. Friend Jr.

January 20, 1933 - October 23, 2018

Merrill 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.

Comments



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Maggie Friend - April 26, 2019 at 03:07 PM



“ Loved this story....nice to hear his voice again
christopher Friend - April 26, 2019 at 10:16 PM



“ 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

Jonelle - November 22, 2018 at 09:09 AM



“ Thank you Jonelle. Your compliment would have made my father so happy.
Maggie - November 29, 2018 at 01:45 AM



“ 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!

Paul Coogan - November 21, 2018 at 10:21 PM



“ Definitely attributes that I share with my father. Thank you for seeing that.
Maggie - November 29, 2018 at 02:47 AM



“ 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

Julie - November 21, 2018 at 09:58 PM



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

Maggie - November 29, 2018 at 01:46 AM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Maggie Friend - November 20, 2018 at 05:11 PM



“ 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.



Maggie Friend - October 26, 2018 at 11:26 AM



“ 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



Christopher Friend - October 25, 2018 at 01:54 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.

Darlene, Maggie's graduate school friend - October 26, 2018 at 10:15 PM



“ 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.

Maggie - December 01, 2018 at 03:30 PM