



Ellsworth Earl Witmer

November 19, 1936 - September 21, 2022

Ellsworth Earl Witmer, age 85, passed away peacefully on September 21, 2022, surrounded by his wife and family at their home in Maitland, FL.

Earl was born November 19, 1936, in Oil City, PA. He was the youngest child of William Ellsworth Witmer and Ruth Durner Witmer's five children - Katherine, George, Paul, Charles, and Earl. Earl was a precocious child with a great sense of curiosity, adventure, and exploration. One day at the young age of 5, instead of walking to his kindergarten class down the road, Earl decided instead to skip school and walk to the local dairy farm where he proceeded to ask the farmer if he had any chocolate milk! The farmer, recognizing him, promptly called Earl's father to pick him up for school instead.

That sense of adventure and exploration led Earl to enlist in the U.S. Navy at the age of 17. This small-town Pennsylvania country boy found himself stationed at the U.S. Naval Base in Key West, FL where he met the love of his life, Dora Mariana Garcia. They met at the beach on the Naval Base and were instantly smitten with each other. Earl and Dora were married in 1955 at the age of 18 at El Salvador Methodist Church in Key West, FL where they began their long and loving life together.

Earl entered the Navy in Fleet Sonar School and he proudly served on the

USS Albany CA-123, USS Barney DDG-6, USS Coolbaugh DE-217, and USS Sampson DDG-102 over the course of his Naval career. During this time, Earl traveled to several countries including Italy, Spain, and Greece. He retired at the highest enlisted rank of U.S. Navy Master Chief Petty Officer (MCPO), STMC, E9 with 22 years of dedicated service to his country.

The Navy prepared Earl well for his second career in life as an Electromagnetic Compatibility Engineer for IBM, where he traveled routinely to Germany to help launch IBM's first EMC laboratory there. He retired from IBM as a Senior EMC Engineer after 20 years of service.

Earl and Dora were blessed with five children, Ruth, Steven, Sheryl, Briana, and Brenda. Earl and Dora's strong faith in God guided them as they raised their children. They were active in the church and Earl was a regular member of the United Methodist Men's Group. Earl also enjoyed gardening and was very talented in plant propagation, particularly with the many varieties of citrus trees he planted in their yard.

Earl was a loving, loyal, and devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend. In addition to his parents, Earl is predeceased by his sister, Katherine, his brothers George and Paul, and his son, Steven Witmer. He is survived by his wife Dora Witmer (nee Garcia), his brother Charles Witmer, and his sisters-in-law Yolanda Choser, Cecilia Gerow, and Manuela Hannah. He leaves behind his daughters Ruth "Sunni" Witmer, Sheryl Jensen, Briana Witmer, and Brenda Witmer Bennett, his son-in-law Kevin Bennett, and his granddaughters Rachel Bennett and Nicole Bennett, as well as many beloved nieces and nephews.

A service for Earl will be held on Thursday, October 6, 2022, at Asbury United Methodist Church, 220 Horatio Avenue W., Maitland, FL 32751.

Visitation will be at 10:00 a.m. followed by a church service at 11:00 a.m.
Interment will be private.

If anyone so chooses, flowers may be sent to DeGusipe Funeral Home, 9001
Orlando Avenue, Maitland, FL 32751, or a donation to the charity of your
choice can be made in his name.

Fair winds and following seas, Earl.

Tribute Wall

JC

“ So sorry to hear this news. Earl was a good friend and mentor of mine at Boca Raton IBM and later at RTP IBM. I always enjoyed his stories and memories which were lessons to me. You will be greatly missed. J Cooley

John Cooley - December 30, 2022 at 09:40 PM

YF

“ Your Loving Wife and Family purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Ellsworth Earl Witmer.



Your Loving Wife and Family - October 03, 2022 at 02:36 PM

EL

“ What a lovely soul. His grin could light up a room! My heart goes out to all his family. Peace. Ellie



Ellie - September 27, 2022 at 07:58 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ellsworth Earl Witmer.



September 27, 2022 at 07:51 PM



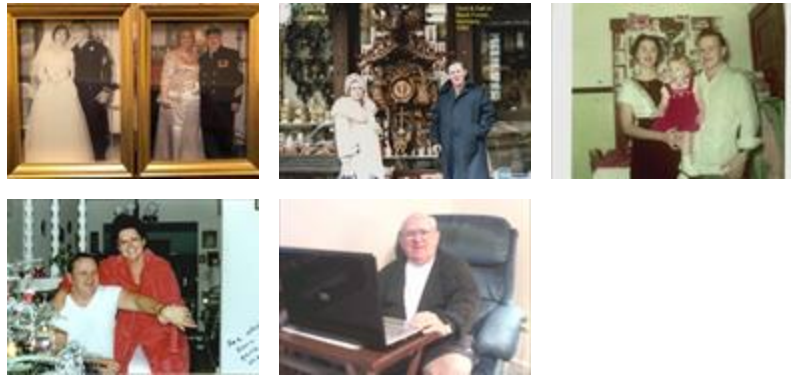
“ *Sacred Duty Spray* was purchased for the family of Ellsworth Earl Witmer.



September 27, 2022 at 07:22 PM



“ 145 files added to the album *Earl Throughout The Years*



switmer56 - September 27, 2022 at 11:47 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Ellsworth Earl Witmer.



September 27, 2022 at 12:37 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ellsworth Earl Witmer.



September 25, 2022 at 01:10 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Ellsworth Earl Witmer.



September 25, 2022 at 11:24 AM



“ Werner and Jane Miller purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Ellsworth Earl Witmer.



Werner and Jane Miller - September 25, 2022 at 10:48 AM

WM

“ My brother in Christ and my shipmate, Friends over sixty years starting in Key West in 1956: I Miss you already! As you stand before the "Great Commander-in-Chief" I can hear him say "Well done faithful servant. You have run the race and won the fight!"

As career Navy men and fellow Master Chief Petty Officers, we shared a rapport that only those of like mind and experience could understand. We remained as close as circumstances and duty assignments would allow. The bond we shared was enhanced by the similarity of our professions.

I recall how the serendipitous encounter with Dora in the Key West commissary was the beginning of our friendship. How well I remember the evenings at Peary Court when you, Dora, Nancy and I played Canasta until early morning. Life was good!

The wonderful and honorable surprise of Nancy and I being invited to attend your fiftieth wedding anniversary still evokes sentiments of gratitude and affection. Thank you for the unforgettable memories.

You both were so supportive when Nancy passed away and again five years ago when I decided to remarry. My second wife Jane has also come to appreciate and understand our long-time friendship and has felt a closeness with you, Dora and the family as we have prayed for all of you.

As a Christian man, wonderful husband, great father, good friend and Brother in Christ, you have set an enviable example for all who have known you.

Fair Winds and Following Seas dear Earl.

Werner Miller

Werner Miller - September 25, 2022 at 10:36 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Ellsworth Earl Witmer.*



September 25, 2022 at 06:52 AM



“ *Heaven has gained a good, loyal, funny, authentic and loving soul. Before google maps I would call Daddy Earl and ask for help with directions. I could hear him unfolding the big paper map as I got ready with pen and paper. He was far better than google maps and took this task with great Dedication and Perseverance. I will miss the way he folded his arms over his belly and laughed. Earl you will be greatly missed.
All my love to the family*

Catherine Schwallie - September 24, 2022 at 03:15 PM



“ *Catherine Schwallie lit a candle in memory of Ellsworth Earl Witmer*



Catherine Schwallie - September 24, 2022 at 03:06 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Ellsworth Earl Witmer.



September 24, 2022 at 11:38 AM