

Herschel Thomas Ward

June 16, 1926 - August 30, 2010

Herschel Thomas Ward, Jr. was born in 1926 in a small town in western North Carolina, the son of Herschel Thomas Ward, Sr. and Rachel Effie Keever. His father worked for a woolen mill for many years, and his mother was a homemaker. He had one older sister who died when she was young. Herschel graduated from Granite Falls High School in 1943, and began college at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. World War II intervened and Herschel joined the Army, serving until the end of the war. After being discharged from the Army, he returned to finish his degree at UNC and then obtained his Master's degree from North Carolina State University in Raleigh. After college, in 1950, he began working at the Naval Ordnance Lab in Silver Spring, Maryland, just outside Washington, DC.

At NOL, Herschel met his future wife, Marian, and they were married in the early 1950s. They began a family, and had three children, Susan, Nancy and Tommy. They eventually moved to Fairfax County, in Northern Virginia, where they lived for more than 20 years. Herschel worked for Fairchild Industries, participating in the early development of the communications satellite industry that has ultimately contributed to the development of the internet, cell phones, cable TV, Google Earth and a whole host of ways that we live today.

The Wards also lived near San Francisco, California for more than 12 years, where Herschel worked for another communications satellite company.

During the 1950s, Herschel began his lifelong hobby and interest in skeet shooting, joining clubs in Northern Virginia and Northern California, near San Francisco.

In 1989, Herschel and Marian retired and moved to Florida, as they had always wanted to do. For 21 years, the Wards lived a tranquil life. Their children made regular visits, Herschel went skeet shooting twice a week and they enjoyed their life in Florida. On Sunday, August 8, 2010, Herschel suffered a fall in the bathroom of their home, and died on August 30, 2010. His family was there with him the entire time. He was 84 years old and had lived a long and wonderful life. He is truly one of the "Greatest Generation".

It has been said that the greatest thing a man can do for his children is to love their mother. No one could have loved his wife more!

Herschel and Marian created a close and loving family. He is survived by his wife, Marian of Apopka, Florida; children Susan Clarke and husband Timothy of Virginia Beach, Virginia; Nancy Higgen and husband David of Apopka, Florida, Thomas Ward and companion Diana of Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina, and 4 grandchildren, Alex and Dana Clarke, and Anne and Bonnie Higgen.

Tribute Wall

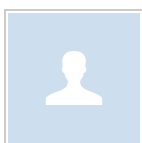


“ *His beautiful daughter Susan has his loving smile.*

Friend to the Clarke Family,

Lisa O'Connor##imported-begin##*Lisa O'Connor*##imported-end##

August 30, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Mrs. Ward, dear Susan and all the family Ward,
I am so sorry for your loss. I am with you at this so difficult and sad
time. Mr. Herschel is not there with you anymore, but Mr. Herschel
is there in your thoughts, and dreams and in your hearts. And he will
always be there.*

My deepest condolences to the whole family...

Veronica

Brussels##imported-begin##*Ver³nica Kurtzahn*##imported-end##

August 30, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Susan, Tim, Alex, Dana, and Family,
We are so sorry to hear the news. If there is anything that we can
do during this sad time, please call. You will be in our prayers.*

Love,

Kevin, Joanie, Maddie, and Rebecca##imported-begin##*The Wood
Family*##imported-end##

August 30, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Susan, Tim, Dana and Alex,

Bob and I are very sorry to hear about your father and grandfather. Please accept our deepest sympathies and prayers. We are thinking of you at this time of sadness.

Much love, Bob and Barb##imported-begin##Bob and Barb Tissier##imported-end##

August 30, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Mrs. Ward, Susan, Nancy & Tommy,

I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Ward's passing. I know it's been quite some time since I saw him (Susan, when you came up to Fairview when Heather and Alex were babies?). I can still see him driving that white VW "bug" and always wondered how he was able to fit in it with him being so tall!! He was such a wonderful husband and father. He was soft spoken and easy going but we as kids always knew if he was mad! I have fond memories of Mr. Ward and I know all of you have many memories, too. Cherish them forever for they will always be with you! Our thoughts and prayers are with each and every one of you as you go through this most difficult time. May he rest in peace.

Love,

Jeannette, Mike & Heather##imported-begin##Jeannette##imported-end##

August 30, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Mrs. Ward, Susan, Nancy and Tommy,
My heart goes out to you all on the loss of your husband/Dad.
Please know that you have been in my thoughts and prayers these
past weeks. I am very glad that you have each other and were able
to be there with your husband/Dad. Mr. Ward was always
welcoming and upbeat whenever he saw you. His obituary is a most
loving tribute to a wonderful human being. Wish that we all could
live the life he lead. Love and peace to you all.##imported-
begin##Jody##imported-end##

August 30, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Mrs. Ward, Susan, Nancy, Tom,

*I am deeply saddened by the loss of Mr. Ward. I remember his last
visit to Va Beach to visit Susan and how nice it was to see him
again. He was teaching us all the proper protocol in skeet shooting!
It was quite fun. I know you will miss him terribly and I am very sorry
for your loss. Love Arlene##imported-begin##Arlene##imported-
end##*

August 30, 2010 at 12:00 AM