



Jesse Rutledge Emerson

March 3, 1930 - March 20, 2011

Capt. Jesse Rutledge Emerson III, USN (ret.), age 81, died on Sunday, March 20th, in Longwood, Florida following a prolonged struggle with cancer.

He was the eldest child of Dr. Jesse R. Emerson II and Mary Ann Price Emerson of Gainesville, Florida. After graduation from P.K. Yonge high school in 1948, Jesse attended the University of Florida and served in the Florida National Guard in the run up to the Korean War.

In 1951 he was accepted into the Naval Cadet program and was selected for pilot training at Pensacola, Florida. Upon earning his wings in 1952, Jesse was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy and sent to San Diego, California where he began flying the A-1 Skyraider. It was in San Diego that he met and married Lt. (j.g.) Thelma L. Lickteig, a U.S. Navy nurse stationed at Naval Hospital Balboa.

After several sea duty assignments in the early 1960s, Jesse would begin flying the A-4 Skyhawk and later the A-7 Corsair II out of NAS Lemoore, California. He would go on to command two different squadrons and fly 80 combat missions in Vietnam, where he would earn seven Air Medals and a Bronze Star. The last five and half years of his career were spent at the Pentagon, during which time he would help plan the successful rescue of the 40-man Mayaguez crew in May 1975 and also serve as a military advisor for

the 1977 Panama Canal treaty negotiations that resulted in returning control to Panama. He retired at the rank of Captain in 1978 following 30 years of military service.

Not one to stay still, Jesse joined defense contractor Science Applications International Corporation in Fairfax, Virginia where he worked for over 20 years. He also was active in numerous community organizations and groups, including serving for several years in the 1990s as the Northern Virginia funding raising chairman for the American Heart Association. Two years ago, Jesse and Thelma relocated from northern Virginia to Longwood, Florida to be closer to family. They quickly became part of their new community where they established many strong friendships.

Jesse is survived by his wife of 57 years, Thelma; his sons Mark, Paul, and Stephen; his daughters Rosemary and Marilee; four grandchildren and numerous nephews and nieces, as well as his sister Ann Barker of Camden, South Carolina.

Visitations will be held at DeGusipe Funeral Home on Thursday, March 24, 2010 from 6:00PM to 8:00PM.

A funeral mass will be held Friday, March 25, 2011, 10:00 am, at Annunciation Catholic Church in Longwood, Florida. Internment will be later at Arlington National Cemetery. The family request that in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society or the Hospice of the Comforter in Altamonte Springs, Florida.

Arrangements entrusted to DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory 9001 N. Orlando Ave. Maitland, FL 32751, (407) 695-2273. Please visit www.DeGusipeFuneralHome.com to leave special condolences.

Tribute Wall



“ *Dear Thelma*

We were so sorry to hear of Jesse's passing and please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Please accept our heartfelt condolences.

Punta Gorda, Florida##imported-begin##Edward and Dorothy Aitkenhead##imported-end##

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Thelma,*

Please accept our condolences on your loss. We were honored to have known Jesse and have him as a neighbor. We are very appreciative of his service to our country.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

God Bless,

Mark, Heather, Kate and Connor##imported-begin##Mark and Heather Croxton##imported-end##

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Marilee,
We are so sorry for your loss and will be keeping both you and your family in our thoughts and prayers. What an amazing man your father was. We know that he will be remembered and honored for years to come.
God Bless
The Lozott Family##imported-begin##Erin##imported-end##

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ We will always remember Jesse, our neighbor and friend, as being wonderful, wonderful, wonderful! Please let us know the date and time of the services at Arlington National Cemetary. We would like to attend.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you Thelma, and your family.

With Sincere Condolences,
Dennis, Anna, Paul, & Leah Kacoyanis
Chantilly, VA##imported-begin##Dennis & Anna
Kacoyanis##imported-end##

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I know that Captain Emerson was much loved by his children. I pray that they find comfort in knowing that he is now in Heaven where he can watch over them and love them from above.##imported-begin##Cindy Waddell##imported-end##

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Marilee, I am very sorry for your loss. Please let me know if there is anything that you need. Stacey##imported-begin##Stacey Malaret##imported-end##*

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Marilee,*

My heart goes out to you and your family. I know this has been a long a difficult road.

I will not be able to visit, but want you to know that my thoughts are with you. Kim and Jill have both been great about getting information out to us. I notified our CARD Support Group parents and also sent the information out to Nadia to share with her families. Everyone has been asking about you these past few weeks.

I know you will find great comfort in all the friends who will be at your side during this difficult time.

Your father's obituary told of a man committed to family and country. Some day I would like you to tell me his story.

Peace be with you.

Don##imported-begin##Don Weisbach##imported-end##

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers to all of you at this very sad time. Mr. Emerson's friendship with my dad was so special. My dad was deeply saddened to hear this news. I believe he felt him to be like a brother. They shared so much together. He stood for my dad at his wedding and they shared their lives with each other. Please know that we are all thinking of you and knowing that my mom and Mr Emerson are watching over us will always be a comfort. God's peace for all of you.##imported-begin##Julie Sheehan##imported-end##

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Thelma, Michael and I and all our family send our love and prayers to you and the children. In every way Jesse was the finest of men and he will be missed by all.

God bless you and keep you close in His tender care.

Love, Peggy##imported-begin##The Goode Family##imported-end##

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Heartfelt wishes of peace for you all.##imported-begin##Jayne Ness-Lee##imported-end##

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Marilee and Family,*

I was sorry to hear about your loss. I am praying for you and your family during this dark hour. Capt. Frank suffers no longer suffers because God needed him to command one of His armies in heaven.

With deepest sympathy,##imported-begin##Evangeline Slaughter##imported-end##

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Blessings to the family from his second cousin in Gainesville. I regret than I will be unable to attend the service, but I have his life deeply in my maind, thoughts and prayers. Particular blessings to Ann, the sister.##imported-begin##Jim Emerson##imported-end##*

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of your loss. May "the God of all comfort" be with you during this difficult time and may His trustworthy promises fill you with hope until you can be reunited. (2 Corinthians 1:3, Acts 24:15; Isaiah 25:8)##imported-begin##Amber W.##imported-end##*

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the Emerson Family, You will be in our prayers. Respect and blessings, Chad and Ashely Houvouras##imported-begin##the Houvouras Family##imported-end##*

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *It is with great sorrow and a heavy heart that I have to say Goodbye to my dear friend, Jesse. Like many of his pilot friends, he has slipped the surly bonds of earth and touched the face of God. May He Rest In Peace.*

*Sandy Gonzalez
Village on the Green##imported-begin##Sandy
Gonzalez##imported-end##*

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Thelma,
You know that our hearts are with you and with Jesse.
We'll be seeing you in the next few days.*

*God bless you both.##imported-begin##Clarence and Rachel
Avery##imported-end##*

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *marilee & thelma,
we are so very sad for your loss...such a loving father and husband.
it is amazing to read about all of his accomplishments and service to
our country. we are thinking of you and praying that you will find
comfort in knowing that he is no longer in pain on this earth. let your
happy memories of him carry you through these sad days...much
love.##imported-begin##merritt##imported-end##*

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Marilee,
My heart goes out to you in this difficult, difficult time. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Some stars shine so brightly, their light, here, is deeply missed; some people are so present when with us their physical absence is sorely felt. From your friendship I know your father was one of these rare people. God bless you and I will see you Friday if not before. Take care,
Kate###imported-begin###Kate Cumiskey###imported-end##

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ What an amazing man and life! God bless his service to our country and his commitment to his family. My condolences to my friend Marilee and her family.###imported-begin###Tricia Quinn###imported-end##

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Marilee you are heavy in our thoughts. What an amazing full life your father had, one to be remembered and celebrated.

Love Roy and Kim###imported-begin###Roy and Kim
Snoeblen###imported-end##

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Marilee, our thoughts are with you and your family at this difficult turn in your lives. Although we have never met your dad, we know he was a special man, because every time you spoke about him your faced shined and your eyes sparkled and special dads have special daughters. May you find the strength to move forward with the confidence in knowing that his was a life well-lived. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Judee and Taylor##imported-end##*

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *My condolences go out to your family at this time of loss. You will be in my thoughts and prayers. God Bless.*

Jason##imported-begin##Jason Klazon##imported-end##

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Marilee and family,*

Our thoughts are with you. Your dad was a remarkable man who leaves a long legacy of remarkable people in his children and grandchildren. Your continued devotion to work for the good of others in your professional and personal lives will be a testament to his memory.##imported-begin##John Burns and Terri Daly##imported-end##

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Thelma,*

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Jesse was a remarkable man and a wonderful neighbor. He will be missed.

*The Maurer's
Chantilly, VA##imported-begin##Carl and Deb Maurer##imported-end##*

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Please know we are thinking about you at this time of sorrow. So sorry to hear about Jesse.##imported-begin##susan vazquez##imported-end##*

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *We send our deepest sympathy and condolences on Jesse's passing. He was a dear friend and mentor and we will always treasure fond memories of our times with him and Thelma. Our prayers and thoughts are with Thelma and the family during this sad time.*

*Sincerely,
Pam and Greg Conrad
Chantilly, VA##imported-begin##Pam and Greg Conrad##imported-end##*

March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM