



Raymond Cassagnol

September 20, 1920 - June 24, 2023

Raymond Cassagnol, age 102 of Oviedo, Florida, passed away peacefully in his home on June 24, 2023. Raymond was born on September 20, 1920 in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, the son of Louis and Valentine (Dupont) Cassagnol. He is predeceased by his wife of 77 years, Valentine Cassagnol (Fifie), and daughter, Mireille Cassagnol, and survived by sons Jose (Jocelyne) Cassagnol, Raymond (Maud) Cassagnol, and Claude (Kathleen) Cassagnol; and daughter Dominique (Sal) Ballacchino and; 16 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren; and more numerous than can be counted in nieces, nephews and cousins!

In his early life, he served in the Haitian Airforce as Sergeant and was one of 5 Haitian pilots selected to travel from Haiti to the United States for military flight training in Tuskegee, Alabama. He successfully completed all phases of military flight training as part of the class of 43-G and received his pilot wings on July 28, 1943. Raymond was the first of five Haitian pilots to graduate at Tuskegee, and the last Haitian Tuskegee Airman left standing. Prior to his return home, he was promoted to Second Lieutenant by the Haitian Airforce which was somewhat of a major buzz in Haiti! He returned home and flew North American AT-6 Texans with the other Haitian airmen, patrolling the Caribbean, and successfully cutting off the Nazi food runs in WWII. He also became a lead pilot instructor, training many Haitian Airforce cadets to fly. Interesting fact: Raymond has two sets of wings – one from Tuskegee and one from the Haitian Airforce!

He eventually married Fifie on December 23, 1943 at “Paroisse du Sacre Coeur” – Parish of the Sacred Heart – the same church where they were both baptized! They were married for 77 years and experienced over 80 years of love and devotion. He always said that she was the real hero.

Raymond emigrated to the USA with his wife and children when he was 42 years old, not by choice but by necessity – to live. They escaped with their 5 children in the middle of the night via foot and donkey to the Dominican Republic and left everything behind as Duvalier was hunting him down to kill him. They came as political refugees – Raymond was involved in the Haitian Revolution of which Fifie was a "silent" supporter. He fought all his life against the tyranny and injustices of the Duvalier regime. His dream was to see Haiti restored and her people live without fear, with freedom, justice, and peace – he will hopefully see this happen one day from Heaven.

In his lifetime, Raymond was an entrepreneur; he owned a saw mill, a bakery and furniture wood shop to name a few businesses. He is a published author and wrote a 400-page autobiography in French titled, “Memoires d’un Revolutionnaire”. Raymond and Fifie were faithful parishioners at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church for many year, more recently parishioners at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church in Oviedo, Florida. He had strong faith and together they were part of the King of Kings Charismatic Prayer Group for many years and enjoyed singing and praising the Lord!

Raymond loved deeply. He loved God, the Blessed Mother, his mother, his wife, his children, his nieces and nephews, his cousins, his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He loved his friends who were like family to him. He loved Haiti. He was courageous and dedicated. He had integrity. He had resilience. He could be a harsh man and many witnessed that Cassagnol ball of stubborn anger! But his heart was given over in love to those he fought so hard to defend.

His family invites you to attend a wake for Raymond on Friday, July 7, 2023 at DeGusipe Funeral Home in Maitland, FL from 05:00 pm to 08:00 pm as well as the Mass of Christian Burial at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church on

Saturday, July 8, 2023 at 09:30 a.m. Inurnment will follow immediately after the Mass at Chapel Hill Cemetery. The Mass will be recorded and a YouTube link provided at a later time. Please check this site for the link.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to H.O.P.E Haiti Outreach-Pwoje Espwa, an outreach in Borgne, situated on Haiti's northern peninsula. They work to provide health and dental care, community-based education programs, and economic vitality. Select the DONATE button and follow the prompts for a gift in honor/memory of Raymond Cassagnol.

<https://www.hopehaiti.org/>

Previous Events

Wake and Prayer Service

JUL 7. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory
9001 N. Orlando Avenue
Maitland, FL 32751
<https://www.facebook.com/DeGusipeFH/>

Funeral

JUL 8. 9:30 AM (ET)

Most Precious Blood Catholic Church
113 Lockwood Blvd.
Oviedo, FL 32765

Inurnment following Mass

JUL 8 (ET)

Chapel Hill Cemetery
2420 Harrell Road
Orlando, FL 32817

Tribute Wall

AD

“ *Triste nouvelle que celle du départ de Mr Raymond Cassagnol !*

Monsieur CASSAGNOL a prouvé tout au long de sa vie et jusqu'à ses derniers jours qu'il était un homme engagé et soucieux du bien être de ses semblables.

Au sein de l'Association Nationale des Guides d'Haïti ANGH, branche du mouvement scout introduit en Haïti par sa tendre moitié Valentine CHARLIER, nous avons découvert en lui un homme soucieux de l'avancement des jeunes de son pays d'origine.

Il a bien marqué son passage sur cette terre et a été rejoint par sa compagne adorée Valentine !

Que Dieu l'accueille en Sa Maison ! 🙏

Recevez, parents, proches et amis les sincères condoléances de l'Association Nationale des Guides d'Haïti ANGH.

*Anne -Kary PERRAULT
Présidente ANGH*

Association Nationale des Guides d'Haïti - July 10, 2023 at 02:23 PM

MR

“ *Dominique, sending love and hugs to the entire family. My dear Mr. Cassagnol he will always hold a special place in my heart. I will cherish my memories with you. You were mentally intact, knew your body very well and was not bashful in verbalizing your needs. My visits always ends , “ see you next Friday, God’s willing” Now I’ll say “ see you in heaven, cannot wait to get a full report from you!” Love you! Marcia RN, your nurse*

Marcia Jawahir RN - July 07, 2023 at 10:22 AM

FC

“ *What I will remember the most about Mr. Cassagnol is not all of the awards he earned, not all of the many accomplishments he achieved in his life. What I will remember is a man of humble character, He never bragged about what he did and spoke about his accomplishments as just something that needed to be done so he did it. He loved his country(both his homeland and his adopted one) Most of all I will remember him as someone who loved his family deeply and loved God more than anything else. His love for God expressed its self in everything thing he did and moved everyone he met.*

franz Chenet - July 06, 2023 at 04:54 PM

MW

“ *Dominique, sending lots of love and holding you and your family in prayer. Your Dad holds a special place in my heart. He is a kind and loving soul. I will never forget him loving me as one of his own children! Love you so much my friend!❤️love, Melanie*

Melanie Washo - July 02, 2023 at 04:37 PM

DD

“ *While I don't recall meeting Mr. Cassagnol personally, I saw him holding the Congressional Gold Medal in the photo with his lovely wife. If he attended the ceremony in our nation's capital on that glorious day, then I was the one escorted our national heroes into the Rotunda, arranged the photo op with President Bush, and I was the one who handed him his medal. My name is Dr. Greene, the former National Protocol Officer of TAI for many years. I wanted to say thanks to the family for his service! Fly On...*



Dr. D. - July 01, 2023 at 11:59 PM

FF

*Raymond Cassagnol, my hero and my friend. Rest In Peace soldier 🙏
🙏🙏🙏🙏❤❤❤*

Fritz Fils-Aime - July 02, 2023 at 08:27 AM

MM

“ *I will always be remember as Matt Dillon miss
you Raymond*



Matthew Macik - July 01, 2023 at 01:10 PM

RM

“ *He was the sweetest patient I ever worked with
as a caregiver I work for him and he used to tell
me that I'm the only person that he let do he's
beard and be so comfortable telling me all his
stories cz I'm a good listener he used to kept
me motivated telling me I'm too smart i have to
finish school and be a nurse cz I care for elderly people too much
He was really smart tolerable and passionate I wish I had spent
more time working for the family
I know wherever you at you gonna be safe you gonna be an angel
watching over your loved ones I cherish and I appreciate every
single second I spent with you Mr Raymond you will be missed
Prayers to the family 🙏*



Roodny Mesidor - July 01, 2023 at 09:19 AM

MR

*Toutes mes sympathies à la famille! Nous avons toujours admiré ce
grand oncle et souhaitons qu'il soit bien accueilli là-haut par ceux qui
l'ont précédé et aimé tout autant. Famille Frank Roy*

Marie Lissa Roy - July 01, 2023 at 09:22 PM

ZO

“ *Zellie Rainey lit a candle in memory of Raymond Cassagnol*



Zellie Rainey Orr - June 29, 2023 at 05:51 PM

ZO

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Zellie Rainey Orr - June 29, 2023 at 05:50 PM

ZO

My dear, Mr. Cassagnol, THANK YOU for the many priceless memories!!! I'm humbled and honored our paths crossed. (Enjoy your new pair of wings--soaring with the angels.)

To your beautiful family, I extend my sincerest condolences..May God comfort and strengthen you during your bereavement.

*Sincerely,
Zellie*

Zellie Orr - July 15, 2023 at 10:04 PM

JM

“ *Once upon a time there was a Tuskegee Airmen flyer*

Once upon a time there was a man in the Tuskegee Airman flyer fate connected me

In fact I never met the man in person. Divine Power worked its magic using me to grant the man the ultimate wish of his life: that is to highlight and recognized the passage of his adored wife, Valentine, into the National Association of the Guides in Haiti as a pioneer.

Mission Accomplished My Friend. Now RIP.

Jane Marcel - June 29, 2023 at 04:48 PM

EJ

Comfort and peace to the family. RIP

Edante pierre Jeannot - June 30, 2023 at 05:19 PM

IB

“ *So sorry for the loss of Raymond Cassagnol. He was a hero in my eyes who fought in WWII and because of his courage fighting for freedom for all of us, I was able to come to America and live in freedom. I met him and his beloved wife at Church and was drawn to him when I saw his Tuskegee hat. I owe Raymond and the American Soldiers of that war my eternal gratitude. Rest in peace my hero. Ingrid Bryant a grateful German now an American citizen because of your sacrifice.*

Ingrid Bryant - June 29, 2023 at 01:40 PM