



Ulric Edwin (Ed) Vihlen

October 3, 1926 - August 26, 2021

Ulric Edwin Vihlen (Ed), 94, of Apopka, Florida, passed away peacefully on August 26th, 2021, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. Ed was a true native Floridian, loving husband and father, successful businessman and a respected Navy Veteran. He was a quiet and kind gentleman, holding the highest integrity in business and in family life.

Ed was born October 3rd, 1926 in Miami, Florida. He was the fifth of seven children to parents Sadie and Ed Vihlen, Sr., pioneers of the Homestead/Redlands community. After graduating high school, Ed enlisted in the Navy at just eighteen years of age. During War World II, he saw combat in the Pacific aboard the USS Bon Homme Richard, a CV-31 Aircraft Carrier. He fought courageously in the last few battles of the war. After he returned from World War II, Ed studied Engineering at the University of Miami. Shortly after graduating, he was re-activated to serve our country again during the Korean War. He was assigned to the USS St Paul, a heavy cruiser known as a CA-73. After returning from the Korean War, Ed and his brother Siegfried (Bert) opened the construction company "The Vihlen Brothers." One of his first projects was building the home in which he raised his family in the Redlands, near Homestead.

While Ed took pride in serving his country, his true passions were construction and architecture. The Vihlen Brothers built custom, luxury homes throughout

Miami. Many of their homes were featured in national magazines and received industry accolades such as the Most Outstanding Concrete Structure in Florida in 1975 and 1979, and the Southeast Aurora award for the Most Coveted Symbol of Building and Design in the Home Building Industry in 1988. Three of their homes were on the popular TV series Miami Vice.

Ed was also a family man. With his first wife, Emma, Ed became the proud father of Mike and Kim. Ed's strong character was evident in his care for Mike, who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at birth. After Emma's sudden passing, Ed continued to care for Mike for many years. In 1977, Ed began a new chapter in life, marrying again and becoming a father twice more. His wife Florence Weeks (Flo) and children Mary Jo and Edwin adored Ed's caring disposition and quick wit. Ed thoroughly enjoyed his children and relished every moment he spent with them including driving them to 5 AM competitive swimming practice weekly. He attended every swim meet and volunteered as a swimming official to further participate in his children's love of swimming, building a reputation as a respected official.

Ed was also dedicated to the South Florida community and his passion for making a difference for the disabled. He served on the Board of Directors for the Sunrise Community, adopting their causes as his own and promoting dignified, respectful and compassionate treatment for those with disabilities.

A favorite hobby of Ed's was making his famous guava jelly. Easy to grow in the Redlands, guavas were a delicacy to many. Through an arduous (and what most describe as a downright stinky) process, Ed made dozens of jars at a time. He would donate most of his famous guava jelly to his church, except for the 200 jars he made for Mary Jo's wedding favors. Ed continued to make guava jelly for friends and family until the end of his life and passed his recipe on to his children.

About the time Ed moved from the Redlands to Apopka, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. Frustrated initially, Ed adapted and replaced his favorite pastime of hunting with the annual Walk for Parkinson's fundraising walks. He loved the tradition but more importantly he loved raising awareness for Parkinson's Disease by talking with friends and neighbors.

Ed is preceded in death by parents Edwin and Sadie Vihlen, first wife Emma Esther Engel, brothers Bert, Fred, Donald and Jack and sister Lydia Knox. He is survived by his loving wife, Florence Vihlen and brother Hugo Vihlen. He is also survived by children Kim (Jim) Mertes, Mike Vihlen, Mary Jo (Kris) Tietig, and Edwin (Brie) Vihlen, grandchildren Emily (Robert) King, Von and Layla Tietig, and Colin Vihlen, and great-grandchildren Savannah and Hunter King.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in honor of Ed may be sent to the Parkinson Association of Central Florida (parkinsoncf.org).

Funeral Services will be on Thursday, September 2nd at 11:00am at the DeGusipe Funeral Home in Maitland. For those wishing to attend virtually, please following this link at the time of service: <https://www.facebook.com/DeGusipeFH/>.

There will be a Celebration of Life for family and family following the Funeral Service at the Tietig Residence, 205 Echo Hollow Way, Oviedo.

Interment on Friday, September 3rd at 10:30am at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida.

The family of Ed Vihlen invites you to leave a message of condolence on the Tribute Wall created in his loving memory.

Previous Events

Facebook Live Streaming

SEP 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Facebook Live Stream
<https://www.facebook.com/DeGusipeFH/>

Funeral Service

SEP 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Maitland Chapel
9001 N. Orlando Ave
Maitland, FL 32751
(407) 695-2273
todd@degusipe.com
<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com>

Celebration of Life following Funeral Service

SEP 2 (ET)

Tietig Residence
205 Echo Hollow Way
Oviedo
Oviedo, FL 32765

Interment

SEP 3. 10:30 AM (ET)

Florida National Cemetery
6502 SW 102nd Avenue
Bushnell, FL 33513

Tribute Wall

TM

“ Flo and family,
So very sorry for your loss! Ed was such a nice, sweet, kind,
intelligent person, husband and father. He was always a pleasure to
talk to and visit whenever we saw him in the past years. I wish I
could be there, but unfortunately I cannot. Wishing you all the love
and Blessings to deal with your grief at this sad time.
God Bless All of YOU !
With Sincere Sympathy,
Trish & Hans Molver & family

Trish Molver - September 01, 2021 at 02:56 PM

NK

“ Flo, we send a special prayer and our sincere condolences to you
and all of the family.
Nelda and Barry Krus

Nelda Krus - August 30, 2021 at 08:46 PM

AS

“ What an amazing man! My sincere condolences to the Vihlen
family. May he Rest in Peace.

Angie Bucchi Silvers

Angela Silvers - August 30, 2021 at 05:29 PM

M(

“ My sincerest condolences to the loved ones of beloved Ed. May the
love of family and friends guide you through the days ahead. I am
sending you wishes of comfort and peace.

Mia (PMDOP) - August 30, 2021 at 01:21 PM

LE

“ Love, Nancy, Jimmy, Mary, Gilda & Eva purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Ulric Edwin (Ed) Vihlen.



Love, Nancy, Jimmy, Mary, Gilda & Eva - August 30, 2021 at 11:20 AM

RT

“ Mr. Vehlen was quite but loud in sprit, heart and action. My best mentor and friend. Always ready to help and give advice. Made the best guava jam. He always left an encouraging smile!!!

Raymond J. Thorpe - August 29, 2021 at 05:17 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ulric Edwin (Ed) Vihlen.



August 29, 2021 at 05:06 PM

JB

“ Our prayers go out to family & friends. Ed will be missed! During our visits to his home Ed would remissness about his family, his accomplishments, and his building business. He was a very humble and caring person. You could see the love he had for Flo and his children. He always made you feel welcome and he looked forward to your next visit> Love Richard & JoAnn

JoAnn Bogese - August 29, 2021 at 08:53 AM

TK

“ My deepest sympathies for the Vihlen family. Though he was a man of few words, he was so kind during those few times I saw him. -
Teresa Knox

Teresa Knox - August 28, 2021 at 09:40 PM

LE

“ Flo and Ed were the best neighbors a person could have. The doorbell would ring and there would be Ed with a jar of his freshly made guava jelly in his hands. Ed was good at giving confidence. When he needed something done, he would pull up a chair and watch the whole time, telling me I was doing a good job! Haha. I loved hearing his stories and he was such a kind person. I will truly miss seeing him and getting his hug when I visit Flo. Much love and peace to the family.

Leshia - August 28, 2021 at 05:04 PM

RO

“ I want to express my deepest sympathy to the entire Vihlen Family. Ed was one of a kind. He was truly a man who would take off his shirt to give it to others. He never said no to anyone. He would truly be missed. I will truly miss watching the Dolphins games, the dinners (especially, the time you gave me the venison stew for the first time), the swim meets, but above all the truly kind and honest human being that you were. You leave a legacy to your children and your grandchildren of what it is to be a Man and. I love you Vihlen family, and I am truly in mourning with you. This world was truly a better place with Ed on it, but he is resting in peace and with God. You were a mentor, guide, and another father to me. God Bless all of you. May God's Mercy be with you, and I pray that God send blessings, love, peace, and hope to all of you.

Robert - August 28, 2021 at 03:01 PM

RC

“ *Robert Caragol purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ulric Edwin (Ed) Vihlen.*



Robert Caragol - August 28, 2021 at 02:54 PM