

December 21, 2021

*Joys
Concerns
&
Sympathies*

This publication is a sub-set of the *DANCERgram*, which provides Square and Round Dance news for the West Coast of Florida AND is the official Newsletter of the West Coast Square & Round Dancers Association (formerly the *West Coast Dancer*).

If you have or you know someone who has something to celebrate, are ill, or have suffered a loss, and you would like to share it with the square and round dance community, please let us know.

Announcements will be made for Florida based retired callers and cuers, callers and cuers, who perform in Florida, and square and round dancers from the West Coast Association area as well as West Coast Association officers, Florida Federation officers, and Florida representatives on the USDA Board – all of these include current, former, and retired individuals.

Please email sgdncfan@gmail.com with the person's/people's name(s), details of the incident, address to mail cards to, what club they belong to (or did), if applicable, if they are a caller or cuer or a partner to a caller and cuer.

If you have any questions, please contact the Editor.

Joys

Concerns

Sympathies



Omar (Bud) Garman Witmer, Jr. 94, of Lakeland, FL passed away peacefully in his sleep on December 13, 2021, ready and eager to meet his Lord in the Promised Land.

Born August 25, 1927, Bud was the fifth child of Omar and Anna Witmer, and grew up in Lancaster, PA. He graduated from Brooklyn Poly Tech High School in 1945 after his family moved to New York City. He met Grace Cross, who would become his wife and life partner, at Richmond Hill Baptist Church in Queens, and served in the United States Navy from 1945-1946. Bud and Grace were married in 1951 and bought their first home in Lynbrook, Long Island, where they raised their four sons. Bud earned a BS degree in mechanical engineering from Hofstra University in 1963 after attending night school for many years. He worked for the Bulova Watch Company for 44 years until his retirement in 1990, and he and Grace moved Upstate to Cazenovia, NY where they lived until 2006. They relocated to the Florida Presbyterian Homes in Lakeland, FL in 2011.

Bud loved time spent outdoors, whether it was gardening, traveling, or camping; Fish Creek State Campground was his favorite, as he could sail, canoe, swim, water-ski, hike, and ride the tandem bicycle with Grace to his heart's delight. They loved camping and were members of several camping clubs and square-dancing groups, and they enjoyed many years of healthy retirement together, traveling up and down the East Coast and going on cruises ranging from the Panama Canal to the Caribbean to Alaska.

Serving his community, Bud was active as a 4-H group leader and sang in both church and local choirs, including some variety shows and barbershop quartets. He was elected and re-elected to several terms on Lynbrook's Board of Education, serving as President for many years – long enough to hand each of his sons their high school diplomas at graduation.

Bud and Grace were active members of the BYKOTA class at the First United Methodist Church in Lakeland.

Predeceased by three sisters – Miriam Young, Ruth Thomas, and Helen Ott – Bud is survived by his sister Esther Fickes, brothers Larry and Ken, and wife, Grace, as well as four sons – James (Carol) Witmer, of Orlando, FL; David (Deborah) Witmer, of Liverpool, NY; Daniel (Sue) Witmer, of Oswego, NY; and John Witmer, of Williston, VT – and six grandchildren – Anna, Thomas, Patrick, Kevin, Brian, and Eric – and four great-grandchildren – Amelia, Connor, Emerson, and Olivia – and many, many nieces and nephews who loved their Uncle Bud.

Bud and Grace are Lifetime Member of Buttons & Bows of Lakeland.

If you would like to send cards, Grace's address is 901 S. Lakeside Avenue, ALZ 253, Lakeland, Florida 33803.

The DANCERgram magazines are written and published by a square and round dancer concerned about preserving our dance activity. The magazines include *Planner* (weekly), *This & That* (monthly), *Joys, Concerns, & Sympathies* (as needed), and *Directory* (as needed). All of the magazines are under the DANCERgram banner. In the event of new information between publication dates, notification is sent via the *Flash*.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any submission to the DANCERgram magazines. Opinions expressed in any DANCERgram magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor or the West Coast Square and Round Dancers' Association. All new information (since the previous issue) in these magazines is highlighted in yellow.

Distribution of the DANCERgram magazines is encouraged via forwarding or hard copies. All of the Magazines, as well as additional content, can be found at www.dancergram.com.

If you would like to receive the DANCERgram Magazines via email or you would like to submit information to any of the magazines, please contact the Editor at sgdncfan@gmail.com or 863-224-3393.

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DANCERgram Magazines

Planner (weekly)
Joys, Concerns, & Sympathies (as needed)
Directory (as needed) • WC Key Contacts • WC Dances • SCCA • Links
This and That (monthly) • WCA president's message • Federation president's message •
Club News • Reprint of articles • New Articles