



## Burrel Edmund Sumner

September 3, 1920 - July 26, 2021

Burrel Edmund Sumner, USMC (Ret) age 100 of Blountstown, Florida died July 26, 2021, with his daughter Jolene by his side. He was 38 days short of his 101st birthday.

He was a native of Florida and had resided in Blountstown for the past 16 years. He was the oldest of nine children born to the late Clyde and Hattie Sumner from Liberty County Florida. He served his country with distinction in the Marine Corps obtaining the rank of Captain and retired in 1960 after 20 years and nine months of service. Burrel served in combat as a Marine Aviator fighter pilot during WWII and the Korean conflict, accumulating over 7000 flight hours before retiring. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with two stars, Good Conduct Medal with two stars, plus several other Medals of Commendation.

Burrel graduated from Pensacola Junior College and became their first Director of Purchasing in 1968. He retired from the college in 1983. In 1968, Junior Colleges in the State of Florida were authorized to have their own Board of Directors and Burrel became a member of the Florida Association of Public Purchasing Officers. In 1980 he served as their State President.

After his second retirement, Burrel spent many years working with the Silver Eagles Association. This is the fraternal organization of the Enlisted Pilots in the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. He served as their National President in 1989-90 and was re-elected National President in 2001. He served three more years, relinquishing the office in October 2004. He was

keenly aware of the fact that he was the only young man in Liberty County, Florida that had the opportunity to earn his wings as an Enlisted Naval Aviation Pilot. He received his wings as a Marine Staff Sergeant in 1943. In 1993, Burrel became a Distinguished Wing Member of the Pensacola S.E.A. Wing. At the 1994 National Convention he was awarded the Mr. Silver Eagle Plaque. At the time of his death, he was President Emeritus of the Silver Eagle Association.

After retiring from the Marine Corps in 1960, Burrel spent ten years as troop Committee Chairman for Boy Scout Troop 646 sponsored by the Warrington United Methodist Church. He was also active in the Church serving in several different chairmanship positions.

For many years Burrel was a volunteer at the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola and enjoyed working in the aircraft restoration department. He accumulated in excess of 5,000 hours before Hurricane Ivan destroyed their Navy Point home in 2004. The damage required a drastic move to Blountstown, Florida for Burrel and his wife, Alleen.

Burrel was preceded in death by his loving wife of 65 years, Alleen Roberta Sumner, his brothers, Amos Sumner, Carl (Junior) Sumner, Lewis Sumner and his youngest granddaughter, Sharon Ebersole. He is survived by two daughters and their husbands; Cheri and Quentin Henderson of Blountstown, FL; Jolene and Ron Hamilton of Mary Esther, FL; and one son and daughter-in-law, Craig and Linda Sumner of Huntsville, AL. He is also survived by six Grandchildren and fourteen Great Grandchildren as well as three brothers, two sisters, and a host of in-laws, nieces, nephews and friends.

The funeral service will be held at 12:00 noon EST on Friday, July 30, 2021, at the Lake Mystic Baptist Church, 15292 Co Rd 12, Bristol, FL with Pastor Kyle Peddie officiating. Visitation will begin 1 hour prior to the service.

Pallbearers will be Aaron Sumner, Marc, Brady and Jason Tomlinson, Jonathan Chandler, George Kitchens, Nathan Ebersole and Dustin Pettis. Burial with Military Honors will be in the Lake Mystic Cemetery three miles south of Bristol, Florida on Highway 12. Donations in memory of Burrel may

be sent to Pensacola Naval Museum, 1750 Radford Blvd Suite C, NAS Pensacola, FL 32508 or Blountstown United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 299, Blountstown, FL 32424 where he was a member for many years. Todd Wahlquist with Bevis Funeral Home in Bristol (850-643-3636, [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)) is assisting the Sumner family with their arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Lake Mystic Cemetery

15292 NW CR 12  
Bristol, Florida, FL 32321

# Previous Events

## The Family Will Receive Friends

JUL 30. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Lake Mystic Baptist Church  
1529 NW CR 12  
Bristol, FL 32321

## Funeral Service

JUL 30. 12:00 PM (ET)

Lake Mystic Baptist Church  
1529 NW CR 12  
Bristol, FL 32321

# Tribute Wall

KH

“ I'm not able to be there in person Friday to say good bye, however, I will be there in thoughts and prayers. One day, we will all be together again. The best family reunion ever! My love and prayers to the family, Jewell King Thomas



Karen Hackimer - July 29, 2021 at 05:06 PM

JH

Thank you very much for your thoughtful post. Jolene

Jolene Hamilton - August 01, 2021 at 06:24 PM

CH

Thank you so very much. Cheri

Cheri Sumner Henderson - August 02, 2021 at 10:50 AM

LB

“ Mr. Sumner, you were not only Blessed with honoring your country and community with so many gifts...but you and your wife were given the love and respect of your wonderful three children...one of which, has become one of my best friends for so many years. You will be profoundly missed and I pray you RIP knowing we will see you again.

Linda D Bleau - July 29, 2021 at 10:01 AM

JH

Thank you for your sweet and comforting words dear Linda. Jolene

Jolene Hamilton - August 01, 2021 at 06:23 PM

CH

*Bless you, Linda 🙏❤️*

**Cheri Sumner Henderson** - August 02, 2021 at 10:51 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Burrel Edmund Sumner.*



July 28, 2021 at 02:24 PM

AS

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



**Aaron Sumner** - July 28, 2021 at 12:08 PM

JH

*I've always loved this picture of Dad with nine of his great grandchildren. Jolene*

**Jolene Hamilton** - August 01, 2021 at 06:25 PM

MF

“ *Margie and The Howard Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Burrel Edmund Sumner.*



**Margie and The Howard Family** - July 28, 2021 at 11:20 AM



“ *Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Burrel Edmund Sumner.*



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July 28, 2021 at 09:04 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Jolene Hamilton** - July 28, 2021 at 08:17 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Burrel Edmund Sumner.*



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July 27, 2021 at 11:20 PM

CK

“Sumner speaking!”  
Hi Granddaddy it's Caralleen.  
Well hello granddaughter!

*It was the same every phone call. I can hear him saying this over and over in my head. Granddaddy was known for his shall we say, expedience, when it came to phone calls. Get right to the point and say it under 2 minutes. I actually kind of like that. 😊*

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**Caralleen Kitchens** - July 27, 2021 at 10:21 PM

JH

*Love this very true comment, Caralleen. Short and Sweet - that was how all my phone calls were also. Aunt Jolene*

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**Jolene Hamilton** - August 01, 2021 at 06:27 PM

MP

“Are you playing possum granddaughter? ”, as he laughed. "Your Grandmother has breakfast ready. Come eat and then we are going to the museum. Got to start the day off right. There is plenty of starving children in Africa. Let's go!" We spent many summers in Pensacola with Granddaddy and Gammy. It was an adventure to say the least! From walking on Fat Albert, watching the blue angels taxi on and off, to standing on the runway, literally so close to the jet your nose hair burned ha! Or running down the end of the street to the bay and playing in the water. Another of my favorite memories were eating butter pecan ice cream with Granddaddy. I was the only grandchild who shared the same, so I felt extra special. We loved to sing at his Silver Eagle gatherings. One year we sang Hagaleena Magaleena Oopscalla Wapscolla....it was a silly song and all of his Marine buddies and wives loved us as if we were stars! Granddaddy taught me to love life, respect life and others. Taught me to hunt, skin a deer. We even took night time rides in the forest looking for lost hunting dogs. We never did find Bigfoot but we sure talked about him! Granddaddy loved our family so! And he gave me a lifetime of memories and experiences I will cherish forever! Your granddaughter, Michele

Michele Pettis - July 27, 2021 at 10:12 PM

CK

Love this so much!!

Caralleen Kitchens - July 27, 2021 at 10:15 PM

CH

He loved showing off his grandchildren whenever he could.

Cheri Sumner Henderson - July 28, 2021 at 08:33 AM

JH

Super sweet memories, Michele. He really loved bragging on his grandchildren and then his great grands. AJ

Jolene Hamilton - August 01, 2021 at 06:29 PM

AS

“ 51 files added to the tribute wall



Aaron Sumner - July 27, 2021 at 10:06 PM

CK

*Thank you for these wonderful memories Aaron!*

Caralleen Kitchens - July 27, 2021 at 10:21 PM

MP

*Wow! Thanks for sharing! 💕*

Michele Pettis - July 27, 2021 at 10:25 PM

AS

*Thanks :) I will add more family pics when I have my personal computer with me... I left it in Huntsville...*

Aaron Sumner - July 27, 2021 at 10:27 PM

JH

*These pictures are so perfect, Aaron. Thank you for posting them. Aunt Jolene*

Jolene Hamilton - August 01, 2021 at 06:30 PM

CK

“ Granddaddy was a life force in our family. When we were little, it was lots of rules about manners and respecting your elders. He was a Marine after all! But as we grew older, he and Gammy always made a huge effort to be present for our recitals and achievements, and they were always encouraging us to be the best we could be in everything. They took us to church, to get ice cream and to the Pensacola NAS Museum. Vacationing with them at Navy Point was the highlight of my young summers. We learned a lot about naval aviation, and we were always informed about the sacrifice and heroism of WWII veterans. I have been so profoundly blessed to have a Grandfather like him, that taught me so much about life, about what really matters - go to church, respect others, be the best you can be. What I most admired about Granddaddy was how he loved Gammy and took care of her. They were amazing role models. Granddaddy softened so much in his old age, and he was increasingly concerned that the younger generations would forget what his generation sacrificed during WWII. We promised him we would never stop telling his story and the story of the greatest generation. Granddaddy thank you for your love and your legacy! FLY HIGH with the angels!! Love, Caralleen

Caralleen Kitchens - July 27, 2021 at 09:28 PM

MP



Michele Pettis - July 27, 2021 at 10:26 PM

CH



Cheri Sumner Henderson - July 28, 2021 at 08:35 AM

JH

Granddaddy would be very proud that you will continue to share "HIS" story. Aunt Jolene

Jolene Hamilton - August 01, 2021 at 06:32 PM

CF

“ *Caralleen, Michele, Janet, Nathan & families purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Burrel Edmund Sumner.*



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**Caralleen, Michele, Janet, Nathan & families** - July 27, 2021 at 09:01 PM

LD

“ *Jolene and Cheri, I always loved visiting your dad and thank you for sharing him with me. My love to you both. Linda Delles*

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**Linda Delles** - July 27, 2021 at 01:16 PM

CH

*Love and appreciate you so much, Linda ❤️*

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**Cheri Sumner Henderson** - July 27, 2021 at 05:16 PM

JH

*I will miss our drive to Blountstown together to see Dad and I appreciate all the trips you made with me.*

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**Jolene Hamilton** - July 27, 2021 at 08:34 PM

DD

“ *Don, Linda, Mandy and Daniel purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Burrel Edmund Sumner.*



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**Don, Linda, Mandy and Daniel** - July 27, 2021 at 01:09 PM