



Ney C. Landrum

January 17, 1931 - July 12, 2017

Ney Cody Landrum, long-time Tallahassee resident, died July 12, 2017 at the age of 86.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife of fifty-two years, Matilde Hume Landrum; their first child, Ellen Lea; his parents Newsom “Newt” and Bernice “Bobbie” Landrum; and a sister, Charlottte VanLandingham. He is survived by three children: Bruce (and his wife Lisa), Anne Marie, and Jessie Elizabeth; five grandchildren: McKenzie and Robert Landrum, and Cassie, Alex, and Ellie LaJeunesse; a brother, Gary Landrum; his former son-in-law, David LaJeunesse; and two dear family friends: Phyllis Young and Margarita Grant.

Ney was born on January 17, 1931, in a tin-roof shack on the edge of a limerock mine in Levy County, Florida. At the age of three, he moved with his family from the hamlet of Williston, Florida (1935 population: 862) to the Capital City (11,725), where he grew up. He attended the former Caroline Brevard Elementary School and Leon High School and thoroughly enjoyed the benefits of small-town culture. In 1948, he enrolled in the new Florida State University to try his hand at further education. As the Korean War started soon after, he joined the Marine Corps officer training program and was commissioned as a second lieutenant upon graduation. He served two years, primarily in amphibious reconnaissance duty, and remained in the Marine Corps Reserve for the following thirty years, eventually retiring as a colonel.

Following his release from active duty in 1954, he returned to FSU for graduate work. With a new MA degree in hand, he then set out to pursue a career in the field of land use and management, with special interest in public lands. His desire to improve the quality and management of Florida's vast public land holdings governed his actions, in both private and public work, for the following thirty-three years. In 1970, he was appointed Florida State Parks Director, a position he held until his retirement in 1989. During his tenure, Florida's state parks program was doubled in size and its management placed on a professional basis. Upon retirement, he was honored by Florida's governor and cabinet as "Director Emeritus of Florida State Parks". He also was recognized for his work by the U. S. Department of the Interior with its "Conservation Service Award", its highest honor given to an individual other than its own employees. During this time he helped organize the Florida Society of Geographers and served as its second president, and was admitted to the FSU adjunct faculty to teach geography. In 1975, he was selected as an FSU "Grad Made Good" in the second year of the program.

Following retirement from public service, Ney was recruited to be the first executive director of the National Association of State Park Directors, a position he held for nine years. Simultaneously, he served in a similar position for the National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers for twelve years, and joined the staff of the National Parks and Conservation Association for three years as its Southeastern representative. He took advantage of his spare time to do extensive volunteer work for the Florida International Volunteer Corps and the U. S. Agency for International Development in Central America and the Caribbean Islands. Much of this effort was in Belize, where he worked closely with Maya Indians on programs to improve the eco-tourism potential of their reservations. Among his many other publications, which included a regular report on the nation's state parks for the "Book of the States" published by the Council of State Governments,

he authored two books. One of these, "The State Park Movement in America", remains the primary reference work on that subject.

Locally, Ney's interests centered mostly on Boy Scouts and historic preservation. Over a period of fifty years, he served in almost every capacity in the Boy Scout organization, from assistant scoutmaster to explorer advisor to district chairman to council commissioner. He was recognized for his efforts with receipt of the Silver Beaver award, and in 1992 he was named a "Distinguished Eagle Scout" by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He was a strong supporter of the Tallahassee Junior Museum, serving as president in 1972-73. He was active also in the Murat House Association, serving as president, and in the former Florida Heritage Foundation, where he was a founding member.

Among his many other honors, he was selected, first for the Florida Tourism Roll of Honor, and later inducted into the Florida Tourism Hall of Fame.

Above all, however, Ney's primary interest was his family. He loved his family dearly, and also greatly appreciated all of the friends and supporters who helped him along life's path. He knew that he had been blessed with a long, eventful, happy life, and died peacefully in that knowledge, without regret.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 17, 2017 at Bevis Funeral Home, 2710 North Monroe Street. The service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18, 2017 at St. John's Episcopal Church, 211 North Monroe Street, with interment following at Roselawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the James P. Cook Memorial Relief Fund c/o Florida Park Service Alumni Association, Judi Maxwell, Treasurer, 558 SW Maxwell Court, Fort White, FL 32038 or FPSAA.org.

Rocky Bevis and Kelly Barber of Bevis Funeral Home in Tallahassee (850/385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) are assisting the Landrum family with their arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 17. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory
200 John Knox Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 385-2193

Funeral Service

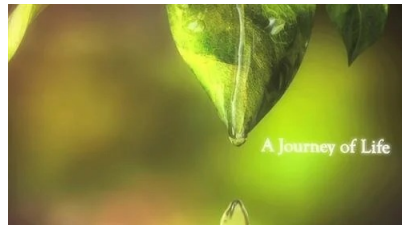
JUL 18. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. John's Episcopal Church
211 North Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Tribute Wall



“ *Bevis Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ney C. Landrum*



Bevis Funeral Home - July 17, 2017 at 01:19 PM



“ *I worked with Ney Landrum for 5 years- from 1979 to 1984. He was one of the most thoughtful, forthright and skilled State officials I have met during my forty plus years working on natural resources issues in Florida.*

henry dean - July 20, 2017 at 07:02 PM

JP

“ Anne Marie, Elizabeth and Bruce:

Please accept my heartfelt condolences on the loss of your father. I regret that a health issue prevented me from attending the visitation and service.

As you know, we worked together for many years (25) and had many special memories. It was more of a family relationship than a professional one.

I know you will miss him greatly but hope you are comforted by the outpouring of love from his many friends.

JoAnn Pullen

JoAnn Pullen - July 19, 2017 at 07:50 AM

B
BEVIS

“ 76 files added to the album LifeTributes



Bevis Funeral Home - July 17, 2017 at 11:49 AM

RB

“Ney was always my hero during my career in the park service. He always remembered your name and made you feel like you were important. Many years ago when I was a newly promoted park manager, I was at the Douglas Building on an errand. It was one of my first times there. When the elevator door opened, there stood Ney. He said, "Hi Randy" after talking a bit, he asked if I needed help to find someone's office. (which I certainly did) Rather than give me directions he took me there! As busy as he must have been, he took the time to guide me to my goal as he surely guided countless others.

Randy Brown

Randy Brown - July 17, 2017 at 11:13 AM

DE

“Ney was one of my Mentors. I met and admired him from the first NASPD meeting I ever attended in 1981. He was the very essence of a Professional that I wanted to be. One of the founders of our two national professional organizations. I still called and sent him materials regularly. He set the bar for Park and Recreational professionals. And his book on State Parks is the Bible for our profession and used to educate and inspire students at the NASPD Leadership School. He and Matilde were such a great pair and we all enjoyed seeing them at all the meetings they attended... Thanks to the family for sharing Ney with us over all these years... and our prayers and condolences are sent to you from all of us! His memory and teaching has continued to inspire us to carry on for State Parks and Recreation during these challenging times.

Doug Eiken,

Doug Eiken - July 17, 2017 at 10:38 AM

LF

“Ney's rare mix of wisdom, knowledge, integrity, experience, meekness (strength under control), compassion and focus demonstrated a servant leadership above the norm. He was a personable teacher, leader, mentor and innovator whose influence spread far and wide. The core legacy of his work still exists today allowing people to enjoy some of the best of God's natural creation...in state parks.

Larry Fooks

Larry Fooks - July 17, 2017 at 07:53 AM



“Ney was a leader and mentor to so many including me. We all will miss him so much. He made such a difference for our parks and our lives.

My prayers and support to all of his family and friends.

Fran Mainella

Fran Mainella - July 16, 2017 at 07:12 PM

ML

“As a young reporter in Tallahassee, I met Ney Landrum during the Askew administration, which I covered for the then-New York Times Florida Newspaper Group. He was such a man of integrity and devotion to his cause, our beautiful parks and natural environment. I kept up with him over the years and from time to time got a call from him as I reported on local and state issues. Last year he called me in my job as a county commissioner wanting to be sure Lake Talquin's boat ramp and park were being properly maintained. He was a wonderful gentleman and our state and world are better for the lifetime he spent among us.

Mary Ann Lindley - July 16, 2017 at 08:14 AM

GA

“ My earliest memories of Ney was when I was 7 or 8 years old and he was my Dad's assistant scoutmaster of Troop 106. His involvement with the troop was interrupted by his service during the Korean Conflict. In 1955 I turned 11 and joined the troop. When several of the boys my age turned 14, Ney moved up with us and formed Explorer Post 106 as post advisor.

Two of my most memorable adventures were "The Hike of the Fearless Five" as a scout and "The Magnolia Expedition" as an explorer. In true young Marine Corps fashion, the 10 mile hike did not follow trails or roads, but instead was cross country in the woods south of Tram Road. We were guided by Ney with his map and compass. If our path encountered a swamp we stayed on course and waded across. Miraculously, we ended at our destination a couple of hours late and near dark.

The Magnolia expedition goal was to locate the site of the historic town of Magnolia on the St Marks River. Our search involved hiking down the west side of the river looking for any signs of early (1820's) activity. We encountered a large cottonmouth moccasin and an old, very colorful, "dead-head" logger named Cane Strickland who offered much insight into his trade and wondered what day it was. We did locate the town site and collected many artifacts from a small stream which apparently ran through the town. The two green bottles in Ney's family room are from that adventure.

My next chapter with Ney was with the Florida Park Service from 1969 to his retirement in 1989.

George Apthorp - July 15, 2017 at 12:56 PM

JC

“ You don't know me but I 'm sure that you would recognize my families name. I am Jo Nell Folsom Croom and your family was very close to ours as I grew up. Ney and Gary were often involved in the activities of my father, Dick Folsom, and brother, Richard Folsom. Hunting, fishing, scouting and camping were some of those activities that they enjoyed together. Ney was a very honest, intelligent and friendly man. He will be missed by many.
You have my sympathy

Jo Nell Folsom Croom - July 15, 2017 at 10:56 AM