



## Charlton Haines "Chuck" Downs Jr.

May 20, 1931 - January 16, 2016

Chuck Downs, 84, of Sarasota, Florida, passed away on January 16, 2016, surrounded by his friends and family. He is survived by his wife and best friend, CJ Downs his daughters Brittany Thrush and Crescent Thursh, granddaughters Sienna Sciacca and Simone Sciacca, former wife Marlene Downs and sons, Mike Downs and Chuck Downs. Chuck was born and raised in Sarasota, Florida. He attended Bay Haven School, Columbia Military Academy and Florida State University. Chuck was a cattle rancher his entire life and owned and operated the O-Bar-O Ranch but always devoted himself to his community. He wore many hats and had many trades throughout his life. He was the former president of the Sarasota Cattlemen's Association; he served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War, was nominated by Governor Claude Kirk in 1967 to serve on the Local Government Study Commission and was retired from the Sarasota County Sheriffs Department. Chuck opened the first air traffic control tower in town at the Sarasota Bradenton International Airport and was a passionate pilot with a love for aviation.

Chuck, known to his granddaughters as 'Pop', was a gentle spirit known throughout the community for his generosity and sincerity. He never hesitated to help anyone and always went above and beyond what was expected. His ability for kindness was astounding as he seldom had any ill word to say of anyone, always looking for the good in all people. His kind and patient heart touched many and contained the strength to move mountains.

A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, January 22, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. at First Christian Church, 7601 Clark Rd, Sarasota, FL 34241.

Memorial donations can be made to First Christian Church, 7601 Clark Rd, Sarasota, FL 34241.