



Theodore Francis Ruckert

May 9, 1934 - February 14, 2022

Theodore (Ted) F. Ruckert was born May 9, 1934 in Teaneck, New Jersey and died February 14, 2022 in Venice, Florida. He was a devoted family man who loved and cared deeply for his family. He grew up in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and after attending Penn State, he joined the Army and was proud to serve in the 101st Airborne Division.

Ted met and married Nancy Dowdy, while attending Jacksonville University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History/Government. After graduation, they moved to San Francisco, California where they enjoyed the newlywed lifestyle.

Eventually, Ted and Nancy moved back to Florida and where Ted became the proud father of a son and daughter. They moved to Venice, Florida in 1973, where Ted was a Trust Officer for the First National Bank of Venice. Living in Venice, Ted felt completely at home on the gulf coast, made many good friends and played an important role in establishing Youth Soccer in Sarasota County.

Ted traveled throughout North America, Central America, and Europe where he enjoyed white water rafting, hang gliding, hot air ballooning and riding an alpine slide with his granddaughters before relaxing at the end of the day with a mug of beer or glass of red wine.

Ted is survived by his wife, Nancy, son Ted Mitchell, daughter Jennifer, sons-in-law Tom MacKenzie and Ignacio Estevez, and granddaughters Isabel and Victoria.

Details of Ted's Celebration of Life will follow shortly.

In lieu of flowers, you may donate to: www.tidewellfoundation.org/donate/
Tidewell Foundation 3550 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34239

Tribute Wall

EM

“*Ted, I only met you a few times. But your mum and dad, Ted and Alice ("Aunt Sis"), who were my great aunt and uncle, were so dear to me. particularly towards the end of their lives when they lived a block over from my grandparents, Laura and Ernie, in Pompano Beach, Florida, I visited them for hours every day when I visited my grandparents. We used to play cards together and have so many laughs -- both with my grandparents and sometimes also my Uncle Gene (Alice's and Laura's brother), or sometimes just with the two of them. They sent me lovely cards all the time, all the way through my college days. I will never, ever forget them.*

I know that my mother, Betty, and you were close during your childhoods as well -- though you were first cousins, you were like siblings too (not only in age, but in friendship). I am so sorry that you two fell out of touch.

RIP, Ted -- and may your memory and wonderful life be a comfort to your family and all who knew you.

Elise MacDonald - September 15, 2025 at 12:56 AM



“*We have had many wonderful times with Ted and Nancy, our Friday nights out. Ted loved to pet our cats, Mary Jane especially loved his scratches, He loved sports and cheered for Penn State. He was very funny and always ready for a welcome kiss. Blessings to all the family, we love you. Carole & Cindy*

Carole Peterson - February 20, 2022 at 07:01 PM

HT

“ So many memories and good times it's hard to put into words. TED and I met at a Venice area youth soccer meeting in Venice in the mid 80's. Both our wives are named Nancy birthdays one day apart. My Nancy also lived in San Francisco in the 60's not far from each other though they never met. Over the last thirty years we have shared many great times. Camping, Power boating and sailing together, Golfing (sort of) sharing many birthdays and dinners together over the years. Most of all it was the laughs always the laughs. So many good times. Rest in peace TED you will always be remembered.

Howard and Nancy Tews

Howard Tews - February 19, 2022 at 10:00 AM

TR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Ted M. Ruckert - February 18, 2022 at 01:58 PM

TR

The morning Dad passed, we were at the house getting into the car and a dog (a grey version of our old dog, Midnight) walked into our yard. I got out of the car to say, "hi", and the dog looked at me and then left the yard. Given that Dad was an animal lover, especially dogs, this made me feel good and remember the man who raised me.

Ted M. Ruckert - February 18, 2022 at 02:47 PM

AS

We became very good friends when they were in San Francisco (Nancy worked at same company as I) and we were very sorry to see them leave. A friend and I helped them move from their 3rd floor apartment, putting everything into a trailer. It was a very HOT, sunny day we had a very hard time with the couch/hideaway bed getting down the stairs. I think Ted had heat stroke and stayed they night in motel.

I also remember that they found out in Tampa that the mattress and metal came OUT of the couch, thus much lighter moving into new apartment.

I learned a important item from Ted when I visited them in Tampa '68 when we went to dinner - Yed was very upser because the waiter didn't serve Nancy first. I've judged waiters that way ever since.

Our friendship continued to grow over the years, with lots of fond memories of staying with them in Venice when my job took me to Florida. My last visit Jan 2016 when I was in my RV.

RIP Ted, your gone but the memories will be with me always.

AI

AI Schmadeke - February 18, 2022 at 06:52 PM

TM

“ My fondest memory of Ted Francis is his sense humour and his wit. No matter how early you would wake up in the morning, thinking that you were the first one up, you could be sure that he would come down from his crow's nest and greet you with a hearty "well, good afternoon!" when it was still 6 a.m.!

My life is better for knowing him and will always remember his frequent words of wisdom. "Better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it."



Tom MacKenzie - February 16, 2022 at 05:12 PM



♥ *We still use "well, good afternoon" in our house!! Will treasure those memories of visits to Venice and Uncle Ted and Aunt Nancy coming to town wherever I was living. He was always up for a good road trip*

Nancy Entenza - February 17, 2022 at 08:29 AM

JC

“ *We met ted & nancy in Pompano Beach when our little boys were babies. We stayed in touch with them after they moved to the West Coast and spent many weekends crashing at their house and taking the kids to the beach. He was as bright as anybody I have ever known and was a joy to talk to. Ted and my husband teased one another about how grubby they could look and had contests as to who could look at the grubbiest. They were funny. We camped together and canoe together... Often in the rain but always fun. I will miss him.*

Jane Funk and children. - February 16, 2022 at 03:27 PM



“ *3 files added to the album Memories Album*



Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory - February 16, 2022 at 12:51 PM

JC

He was such a good dad.

Jane Funk and children. - February 16, 2022 at 03:28 PM

VS

Best memory....Ted and his Toyota Tercel (aka Turkel) To this day, still makes me smile. Thank you Ted for making such a great family!

Vicki Signorelli - February 16, 2022 at 05:40 PM



What a legacy he leaves with his kind and thoughtful children, his gracious, caring wife and those grand daughters! Can't wait to see them take off! Rest peacefully Uncle Ted.

Nancy Entenza - February 17, 2022 at 08:41 AM

SB

Although I did not know the family, I had the privilege of knowing Ted from working at First National Bank of Venice. Ted was a reserved man while working, but I got to know the humorous side of him many times at officers's meeting and after hours gatherings. I will fondly remember him and wish him peace.

Susan Balsinger

Susan Balsinger - February 21, 2022 at 06:25 AM