

William Currie Colket (1946-2015)



William Currie Colket, 69, known to his friends and loved ones as Currie, passed away on December 23, 2015 in Boise, Idaho. He was born October 4th, 1946 in Washington, D.C.

He is the son of the late genealogist and historian Meredith Bright Colket, Jr. and Julia Beatrice Pelot Colket, who lived for nearly 40 years in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Currie is a direct male descendant both of Edward Colcord who immigrated to New England by 1629 and of Tristram Coffin Colket, a railroad industrialist of Philadelphia during the mid-1800s.

Currie married Doreen Marie Perrault in 1974 in Biloxi, Mississippi, at the Keesler Air Force Base Chapel. He is survived by his wife, Doreen, of Bradenton, Florida, his daughter, Elizabeth (Beth) Currie Colket, who is married to Timothy Milton Weekley, and grandsons Samuel Alexander Weekley and Walter Jacob Weekley, all from Boise, Idaho. His brothers, Meredith (Med) Bright Colket (Kathleen Gorman Colket) of Avon, Connecticut, and John Pelot Colket (Marilee Cunningham) of Bradenton, Florida, sister-in-law, Kathleen Paige Harlow (Steven Harlow), and several nieces and nephews also survive him.

Currie grew up in Washington, D.C. and Cleveland Heights, Ohio and graduated from University School in Shaker Heights, Ohio. He was active in boy scouts, earned the Eagle Scout award and inducted into the Order of the Arrow.

As a young adult, he was always curious and willing to learn new things. He savored hobbies such as photography, chess, and collecting insects, stamps, coins, antique clocks, Indian arrowheads, and fossils. He developed an enthusiastic love of card games. Several of these hobbies and his broad range of interests continued through adulthood and into retirement.

William Currie received his B.S. degree in chemistry from Case Institute of Technology, his MBA from the University of Southern Mississippi, and his M.S. in Computer Science from the Ohio State University. Directly following college, he joined the US Air Force in 1968, advanced to the rank of Captain and served in Virginia, Iceland, Mississippi, and Oklahoma. He later became a Software Engineer with the Naval Air Development Center in Warminster, Pennsylvania, developing mission software for the Navy's P-3C ORION anti-submarine aircraft. During 1990 to 1994, he was the Navy Deputy Director for the Ada Joint Program Office in Northern Virginia until federal retirement. In 1997, he joined Mitre Corporation in Northern Virginia retiring in 2009.

Currie and Doreen retired to Bradenton, Florida in 2006. In retirement, Currie kept an active schedule, continued learning and at the Lifelong Learning Academy at the University of South Florida became an active teacher of genealogy, history, and use of the internet.

Published in 1995, he co-authored with his parents an extensive family genealogy of the Pelot family, starting from the family progenitor, Niquilly Pelot documented to live in La Neuveville, Switzerland in 1432, with ancestor Jonas Pelot moving to the United States in 1734 and Dr. John Crews Pelot, an early prominent citizen of Manatee County as of 1866. The book is entitled: *Pelot Family Genealogy, Including Appendices and Allied Families*, and Currie continued updates to this historical record following his parents' deaths. He was a member of the Founders and Patriots of America, the Manatee Genealogy Society, and the Manatee Historical Society.

Currie and his wife enjoyed bridge, genealogy, travel, and spending time with their grandsons. He loved reading books, singing, visiting Selby Gardens, and playing Legos, checkers, and chess with his grandsons. He was always ready for card games as he was strongly competitive, but took his losses graciously. In bridge, he became a Bronze Life Master in the American Contract Bridge League.

As a beloved grandpa, dad, husband, and uncle, Currie was a really kind, playful and intelligent person who loved his family, history, games and life in general. His extended family recognizes him as the glue to always bring the family together to reminisce old times and to create new good times.

He was buried at the old Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on December 28th with his family present. A memorial service was held at the Christ Church, 4030 Manatee Avenue, West Bradenton, Florida 34205 on January 10th at 3:00 pm. Memorial donations in memory of William Currie Colket can be made to: Manatee County Historical Commission, 1404 Manatee Avenue East Bradenton, Florida 34208.