

Don "Chico" Fernandes (1935 - 2016)



Don "Chico" Fernandes, 80, of Jacksonville, died Tuesday, March 1, 2016, at his home.

He was born Sept. 1, 1935, in Jacksonville, the son of Walter and Abbie Drake Fernandes. He married Gail Urheim on June 16, 1956, at St. Cletus Church in La Grange.

Mr. Fernandes was a 1953 graduate of Jacksonville High School. He was the longtime owner of Baptist Electronic Supply Company (BESCO) and was proud of the significant business relationships he built throughout his career. He was a former member of the Jacksonville Country Club, and a lifetime member of the Jacksonville Elks Lodge. He enjoyed his days at the Elks Club winning games of gin rummy and exchanging witty banter with his many friends. He traveled the world and spent winters in Texas at Fun N Sun where he played bridge and golf and enjoyed the swimming pool. Chico's greatest joy was spending time with his family, the numerous family vacations they shared, and spending time with his wife, whom he adored.

He is also survived by two sons and three daughters, Don (Ann) Fernandes of Bloomington, Patty McCabe of Normal, Susie Pennell of Jacksonville, Julie (Jay) McNichols of Homer Glen, and Mike (Kelly) Fernandes of Bloomington; nine

grandchildren, Jennifer Fernandes of Greenville, South Carolina, Tyler McCabe of Atlanta, Georgia, Jessica (Chris) Smyth of Canton, Georgia, Rachel (Matt) McGuire of Jacksonville, Blake Surratt of Springfield, Logan McNichols and Emily McNichols, both of Homer Glen, and Alex Fernandes and Kylie Fernandes, both of Bloomington; three great grandchildren; and one sister and one brother, Catherine Ward and Richard (Barb) Fernandes, both of Jacksonville. He was preceded in death by his parents; and seven brothers, Walter, Edward, Harold, Stanley, Jimmie (surviving wife, Mary, of Jacksonville), Billie (surviving wife, Peggy, of Jacksonville), and Robert.

Memorials are suggested to Elks Youth Activities.
Condolences may be left at buchanancody.com.