



## Charles Legare

**August 15, 1927 - May 20, 2012**

Charles was born in a little town in Quebec, Canada. While growing up he spoke French but learned a little English in school. His Dad told him if he wanted to get ahead he should learn to speak English. Gradually he learned the language while working with English-speaking people but French remained the language of his heart.

Charles retired from Pratt & Whitney Canada after 30 years as a machinist and started coming to the Valley in 1989. At Fun N Sun he met and married Stella who was his loving companion for 21 years. You could always find them on the dance floor on Friday nights.

Charles liked to fish, play golf, and do wood carving. His specialty was carving and painting ducks. Because of macular degeneration, he lost sight in one eye and eventually had to give up carving. He liked to play cards, like 500, but his main love was "Texas Holdem."

In July 2006, Charles became a U.S. citizen. Many people in the park had never been to a naturalization ceremony and they wanted to go to his. When a chartered bus brought a group of

40 or more to McAllen, immigration authorities were impressed and set aside a place for all of them to sit together. Charles was the only one from Canada and the second oldest person who became a U.S. citizen that day.

When he returned to the park after the ceremony, a sign said "Welcome new U.S. citizen" and little flags were placed every 10 feet right up to the Legare's driveway. The day ended with a champagne, food, and cake reception in Rm 1.

Charles had four sons and three grandchildren who live in Canada.