



## Chester Bailey

August 13, 1920 - August 6, 2022

Chester Bailey (BMC Ret.), a Navy veteran of World War II and the Korean War, passed away 6 August 2022, a week short of his 102th birthday. Born in Blountstown, FL, Chester was a long-time resident of Valdosta, GA. Chester passed away in Conyers, GA, surrounded by the love of his family. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Gloria; daughters Nadine and Gina; sons Jared and Vincent; brother Jake; sisters Faye, Joyce, and Mary Lou; and grandsons Roark, Michael, and Matthew. He was preceded in death by his parents Silas and Etta, brothers Herman and Silas, and sister Louise.

Chester received commendations for bravery during both wars. He enlisted in the Navy in April 1941 and was stationed at Pearl Harbor, attached to the VP23 flying boat squadron. He was on a transport ship scheduled to enter Pearl Harbor on 8 December 1941, but the transport was not allowed to enter until 10 December. Although not trained as a diver, Chester was a member of the teams who at great risk recovered the fallen from the harbor. He served on a cargo ship that supplied provisions to various islands around New Zealand until that ship ran aground near New Caledonia. Subsequently, he served on an LGT operating in the New Guinea area relocating Army units and on a torpedo boat squadron to islands off Biak. Chester volunteered for a land reconnaissance mission, from which he and one other sailor were the only survivors, the others presumed to have died or been imprisoned by the enemy.

Chester became a 'Shellback' when he crossed the equator in 1942, while sailing with the DESRON 30 Fletcher class destroyer squadron. He was sent through the Malika Straits numerous times while the pirates were harassing American ships. He came through the old Panama Canal twice. He was able to witness the official signing of the Peace Accords ending the war in the Pacific from his ship moored in Tokyo Bay.

He was assigned to the boat pool in Shanghai and helped with security for the American Consulate, including repelling civilian attacks during food riots. He was part of the last American troops departing Shanghai in 1949, and assisted the American Consulate with disposing of top-secret equipment in the harbor.

Chester saw action around North Korea during the Korean War, including while screening for the heavy cruiser St Paul inside Won San Harbor. When North Korean guns hit the St Paul, his ship was left in the harbor under no-fire orders. He also served on a freighter hauling ammunition from Japan to South Korea. At one point, when several 2,000-pound bombs breeched their webbing during the night, he volunteered to enter the 'hole' and successfully re-secured the bombs, receiving a commendation for his valor.

Chester met his wife on a train in New York, drawn by her laugh. They were married six weeks later and he loved her for the rest of his long life. Together, they lived in Jacksonville, FL; Subic Bay, Philippines; Argentia, NL; Newport, RI; Huntsville, AL; and New York, NY.

Following his retirement from the Navy, he operated a successful heavy machinery brokerage business until he was in his 90s, with contacts throughout the States. He was an 'early adopter', including using one of the first mobile phones and otherwise embracing technology despite growing up walking and riding horses for transportation. He had a passion for mechanical

workings of any kind, reading, movies, golf, flying, hunting, horses, dogs, boats, and cars, passions he passed on to his children. His nickname was Jake, because of his love of turkey hunting. He loved hosting gatherings at his lake property, frying mullet and hush puppies. Most of all, he loved his family.

Condolences may be submitted on-line at [www.scotward.com](http://www.scotward.com). Scot Ward Funeral Services, 699 American Legion Road, Conyers, GA 30012, 770-483-7216.

# Tribute Wall

JW

“ *Your were truly an American Hero of the World War II Era and Korean Conflict Era. Serving in the Navy for 19 years. Oh the stories you always amazed me with telling your experiences over the years. Always speaking so highly of your wife and wanting to take good care of her. Speaking so proudly of your children and their accomplishments. I enjoyed ever time you would come to meet with me in Valdosta to talk about your VA issues. I am so thankful our paths crossed and our friendship grew over the years. May you rest in peace and may God richly bless your family.*

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**Jackie Watson** - August 31, 2022 at 01:55 PM

SU

“ *I also read this in the AJC. What a wonderful human being he was. I was amazed at his courage, heart and quest to better himself. A true hero many times over. What a blessing. I wish I had met him.*

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**Scott Ulrich** - August 17, 2022 at 12:40 PM

FS

“ *I read his Memoriam in the Atlanta Journal Constitution newspaper on August 15, 2022. What a man! His life was so very full. I wish I could have known him as I am sure I would have enjoyed a conversation and learned a lesson or two. God bless you -- the family!*

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**Fran Sommerville** - August 15, 2022 at 09:14 PM

BR

“ *I regret that I never met you. You are certainly my hero and a true American hero,*

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**BARBARA RACHELS** - August 15, 2022 at 04:23 PM

WM

“ I have only had the pleasure of knowing one of Mr. Bailey's children, and that friendship is all I need to know that Mr. Bailey was truly a great and honorable man. My deepest condolences to the Bailey family.

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**Weston Maffit** - August 15, 2022 at 09:06 AM



“ My deepest sympathy to the Bailey family. May the many memories of your beloved husband and father comfort the entire family during this time of grief. May this bible verse be of comfort to each and every one: John, Chapter 16, Verse 22--Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you.  
All our love, Jacqueline and Cedric Holt

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**Jacqueline Holt** - August 12, 2022 at 06:36 PM

SR

“ Gina, Nadine, Jared, Vincent - I was sad to hear of your father's passing on. Chester and Gloria were long time friends over the years. Chester in particular would call out of the blue and just want to talk and find out what was happening in our lives. It was always nice to share a meal and laughter over the years. The most impressive memory for me was his extraordinary love for his wife and family. Gloria was such a kind and tolerant person and I so enjoyed visiting them over the years when life was not so kind. The obituary describes a dedicated man and one that we are proud of for his many years of service in the military. He is also one to be admired for his tenacity for his work ethic. Thank you, Chester for being one to defend our freedoms and lives. He will be missed!! Love you all,  
Susan Ring (AKA Closson)

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**Susan Ring** - August 12, 2022 at 06:05 PM

PR

“ *With deepest sympathies*



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**Pat Rozier** - August 12, 2022 at 07:48 AM

LN

*Nadine and family,  
Our heartfelt condolences for the loss of your father and friend. He was a true hero. Our thoughts are with you all, may God's grace surround you.  
Love, Laura and Jim Nehf*

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**Laura Nehf** - August 13, 2022 at 07:58 PM

KW

“ *My condolences to the family. May you find comfort knowing Mr. Bailey lived a wondrous, extraordinary and long life full of beautiful memories and love.*

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**Kali Wills** - August 11, 2022 at 07:15 PM

GW

“ *Wow! He was a brave risk-taker who lived such a long time through so many changes. I am sorry for your loss and may his memory be a blessing.*

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**Gloria Wright** - August 11, 2022 at 03:43 PM

BH

“ *Nadine & Family, my deepest sympathy for your loss. You will always miss him but, hold on to the loving memories. May his soul rest in perfect peace. Brigid & Yvette.*

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**Brigid J Harding** - August 11, 2022 at 11:59 AM

KT

“ Please accept my warmest condolences for your family, I am very sorry to hear of your loss. Sending prayers and good through of peace and strength through this difficult time.

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**Kimberly Tonn** - August 11, 2022 at 11:34 AM

AV

“ Praying for God's comfort and peace for you all. Blessings! Amalia

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**Amalia Veralli** - August 11, 2022 at 10:47 AM

DS

“ Your father lived a remarkable life in which he served his country and built an incredible legacy through the family he so loved – a true American hero!

*While I never met your father, I know he was a man who mentored great integrity and strong character which is reflected in the lives of his children and grandchildren.*

*May wonderful memories of your father help heal the hurt of losing such an important man in your lives.*

*Peace be with you,  
Deidra L. Schad*

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**Deidra L. Schad** - August 11, 2022 at 09:34 AM

DM

“ I'm very sorry to hear about Chester's death. I worked with Gloria for 11 years in Valdosta and lost touch a number of years ago. My prayers for all the family.

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**Darlow A Maxwell** - August 11, 2022 at 09:30 AM

KN

“ Praying for you during this time of loss. We love you and are thinking about you. Our deepest condolences.  
-The Norrises

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**Katrina Norris** - August 10, 2022 at 08:28 PM

SR

“ A life so full and well-lived. My sincerest and deepest condolences to the family.

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**Samara Ross** - August 10, 2022 at 04:18 PM

DE

“ Thinking of you in your time of loss. May the lessons your father gave you last a lifetime, and may you always feel his spirit nearby. It sounds as though he was a wonderful father and a truly special man.  
Donna Esau

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**Donna Esau** - August 10, 2022 at 02:17 PM

SB

“ What an amazing life and beautiful tribute! My prayers are with you, Nadine, and all of your family. He will be sorely missed, I'm sure. How wonderful that he left a beautiful family who can support each other and continue his legacy of exceptional character and strength.

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**Sandy Blount** - August 10, 2022 at 09:56 AM

JC

“ *What a truly remarkable and brave man. He led a life of adventure, service, and love. I can't think of a better testament to a life well lived. Thinking of you during this difficult time.*

*Love,  
Jennifer Cline*

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**Jennifer Cline** - August 10, 2022 at 09:54 AM

LR

“ *Dear Gina, Nadine, Jared, and Vincent,*

*While I never met your father Chester, I certainly witnessed his character very often, and I recognize what he instilled in each of you. All four of you are accomplished, talented, and immensely interesting people, and he must have been a very remarkable father to accomplish that.*

*What a lovely memorial you have provided to him in this piece, and I know you miss him. My deepest condolences to you and your family.*

*Lucy Rowland*

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**Lucy Rowland** - August 09, 2022 at 06:54 PM

AL

“ *Sounds like an amazing man, what great memories you must have, truly one of the greatest greatest generation!*

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**Alice** - August 09, 2022 at 06:52 PM