



Buddy and Sharon



C.O. CAPT. WM. B. LANGLEY
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H & S CO 124 ARMD INF. BN. FT. STEWART, GEORGIA. JUNE 1958
(TALLAHASSEE, FLA.)

TIFFANY

Exemplary Qualities

Some of the finest and scarcest qualities found in a person seem to be modeled by those who are not boastful, endlessly looking for praise. Instead they are driven by a sense of duty and purpose, their characters focused squarely on maintaining order and upholding high moral standards. Robert A. "Buddy" Bannerman is one of these rare breeds, proving one can uphold high standards while also holding family and community in high regard.

A Family Legacy

Robert A. Bannerman aka "Buddy" was born June 25, 1938 to the late Robert C. Bannerman, Jr. and Marie Bowles Bannerman. His mother retired with the State of Florida working in the Workers Compensation Division and his father retired from the State Road Department of Florida (now the Florida Department of Transportation) as a registered land surveyor and civil engineer.

Buddy started surveying around 1954 with his dad, Robert C. Bannerman, Jr. while attending Leon High School in Tallahassee, Florida. "My grandfather was responsible for the skip and fog lines you see on the highway today," says his grandson Scott Bannerman, PSM, PLS.

Longtime FSMS Member and FSMS President from 1999-2000 Jack Breed describes Buddy as a consummate gentleman. "Buddy was a great leader in our profession and our Society. His wife Sharon was always at his side, participating in every FSMS function. As a young member of the Board in the 80's, Buddy and Sharon always spent time with my wife Kristi and I, and we developed a strong personal friendship over the years," says Jack.

Buddy established Bannerman Surveyors, Inc. with his wife, Sharon in 1975. In all, he totaled over 60 years of land surveying. "Mom was right by his side for all these years doing secretarial work as well as finances," says Scott.

The merging of family with his trade came naturally to Buddy after receiving years of guidance from his father, so for his wife, Sharon to join him in the business was purely instinctual. Working closely with his wife for over 50 years and always holding her in high esteem proved to be the ultimate lesson in how to cherish your spouse.

"My Dad taught me by example in how to treat your spouse like a queen and how to raise a family. I know now after being married for 29 years and counting, raising two children and being blessed with two grandchildren just how important good, loving and caring parents are," says Scott.

Buddy and Sharon's life together has always intertwined hard work, faith, and community service. He has been a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Marianna for most of his life and served as an elder for over 46 years.

Mettle and Allegiance

"My Dad was a captain in the United States Army, Green Berets for 19 years from the early 60's to the late 70's. Entering into the Special Forces is like daylight and dark. At the time he was a Green Beret, only 5 out of 100 made the grade to be accepted," says Scott.

The Green Berets are an elite group who have the mental perseverance and survival skills necessary to keep their team safe. They perform operations in small teams to conduct surveillance in hostile territory, execute strikes to capture enemy material, and provide leadership and training to foreign allies to curtail security threats. According to goarmy.com, "candidates are also expected to demonstrate a proficiency in land navigation, one of the most important skills of a Special Forces Soldier."

Buddy participated in many operations all around the world. After serving with U.S. Army Special Forces he moved to Marianna, Florida and continued his service part time as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne based in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He and his dad practiced surveying in Marianna until 1975 when his dad passed away.



A Serendipitous Meeting

Buddy's life changed when he met Sharon in 1973 at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center located in Starke, Florida. Though dutiful to his training, Buddy was ready to become a family man and knew instantly that he would spend the rest of his life with Sharon.

"They married in 1974 and are currently on 46 plus years and counting. Buddy adopted Sharon's children making them the "Brady Bunch", says Scott.

Their children are Deborah Mathewuse, Nancy Tew and husband Gary, Susan Massengill and husband Rance, Kathy McCrary, Laurie Massengill and husband Greg, Scott Bannerman and wife Mendy.

They have eight (8) grandchildren, Kristin Spradlin, Kelley Kindelspire, Kevin Tew, Chelsey McCrary, Brandon Massengill, Jaren Bannerman, Courtney Clemmons, Gage Bannerman and nine (9) great grandchildren, Brooke (12), Leah (9), Rhett (2), Avery (5), Ellaree (2), Kamdyn (8), Charlsie-Grace (3), Crixus (1) and Alivia (8 months).

Stalwart and Committed

Insistent on executing surveys by the book, the community knew they could rely on Buddy to deliver a correct and fair property survey. "He loved surveying because there was always a challenge. He has always believed in doing it right or leaving it alone," says Scott.

Buddy's business savvy included a knack for interpreting legal descriptions that in many cases did not fit on the ground. He was one of the best in sitting down with clients or adjoining property owners and explaining why or how boundary conflicts existed. "Some of his best advice to me was to never back away from any situation - eventually you will figure it out," Scott says.

Another memorable trait was his willingness to take on challenges no one else wanted to take. Anytime others backed away from resolving property discrepancies, Buddy stepped up to rectify the situation. He always did what was right and coined the phrase, 'No job is too big.' Not surprisingly, Buddy also served on the Jackson County Planning Commission for several years and helped in that role to solve many property problems.

Scott says, "Some of my fondest memories with my Dad are being able to survey in the swamps of the Econfina at the young age of nine. Even though I was probably just in the way and always under his feet, he never once said no, and I was always a part of what he did. The one thing he always instilled in me was referred to as The 7 P's: Proper Planning and Preparation Prevents Piss Poor Performance."

"In 1989 Bannerman Surveyors, Inc. was one of the first firms in Florida who possessed Global Positioning System (GPS). We established Latitude and Longitude on four radar sites in the country of Iceland for the US Department of Defense. I am probably one of only a handful of Land Surveyors in the state of Florida who can say they surveyed the four corners of the country of Iceland. This is one memory I will always hold close," says Scott.

Grit and Tenacity

As FSMS President from 1983-1984, Buddy was known to conduct the meetings with a booming voice while handily wielding an ax handle instead of a gavel. The rest of the board members knew when he cleared his throat, it was time for business. Though strict, he also had a reputation of being very honest, dedicated, and fair.

Buddy's military background played a large role in solving life's problems and adversities. "I never saw him panic or make hasty decisions. He always had a plan and like a good father, he never showed his children a fear of failure if there was any," says Scott.

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TO: Members, Officers, Board of Directors,
Administrative Staff

FROM: Buddy Bannerman

RE: Year End Report

DATE: September 17, 1984

As my term as President comes to a close I want to thank each of you for the confidence and support you have shown me during my term as President. Sharon and I will always be indebted to you for the hospitality and kindness shown us when we have visited your areas.

Recently I sent to you a letter outlining many of the achievements that our society has been able to achieve this year, only thru the unified efforts of the officers, directors and the membership.

As you read thru the remainder of this booklet, which contains committee reports, staff activities and chapter reports you will be better able to see the many accomplishments that our profession has made in every area of the state.

I would only ask that you continue to give the support to future administrations to insure the continued growth and achievements of our profession.

A brief resume of some of my activities as President elect and President during the last year are as follows:

September - Install officers - Collier Lee Chapter - Naples; Attend Annual Meeting - Tampa; Install Officers Northwest Fla. Chapter - Tallahassee.

October - Meeting in Tallahassee regarding lawsuit.

November - Committee chairman meeting - Tallahassee

HENRY T. VINSON, Executive Director
119 North Gadsden Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301
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August - Installed Officers of Northwest Florida Chapter - Tallahassee - Misc. meetings FSPLS - Tallahassee - Meeting with North Carolina Society of Land Surveyors NSPS and SAPLS Meeting - Raleigh, N.C.

September - Committee Chairman meeting - Tallahassee Installed Officers at North Central Florida Chapter - Gainesville Board of Directors Meeting-Jacksonville Attend Annual Meeting - Jacksonville

There have been many trips and meetings not listed with attorneys, State Board meetings, meeting with legislators to numerous to list.

This report could not be completed without a special thanks to Henry and Jeannie for the magnificent job they have done.

I thank each of you for the honor to serve as President of this society and the worlds' oldest and greatest profession.

Respectfully submitted,

Buddy

Robert A. "Buddy" Bannerman
President

President and Executive Director visit
Central Florida Chapter.
Meeting FSPLS office - Tallahassee.

- December - Board of Directors Meeting - Tallahassee; Christmas Banquet - Panhandle Chapter - Pensacola.
- January - Install officers Panhandle Chapter - Pensacola - Committee Chairman Meeting - Tallahassee - ACSM/NSPS and SAPLS Meeting - Atlanta.
- February - Visit Tampa Bay Chapter - Tampa Committee Chairman Meeting - Tallahassee Education Committee Meeting-Tallahassee
- March - Jr. & Sr. Party Chief Seminar - Panhandle Chapter - Pensacola. Board of Directors Meeting - Tallahassee.
- April - Short Course at University of Florida - Spoke at banquet - Gainesville - Installed Officers - Student Chapter - Gainesville - Installed Officers - Broward County Chapter - Ft. Lauderdale - Committee Chairman Meeting - Tallahassee
- May - Spoke at FLTA Seminar - Marianna Meeting at FSPLS Office - Tallahassee Numerous trips to Tallahassee to visit with legislature - Attend Banquet at Manasota Chapter - Bradenton.
- June - Joint Meeting FLTA & FSPLS - Jacksonville Board of Directors Meeting - Tallahassee.
- July - Committee Chairman Meeting - Tallahassee - Misc. meetings FSPLS - Tallahassee. Attend Chapter meeting Northwest Florida Chapter - Tallahassee.

During his tenure, Buddy and the FSMS Board Members were responsible for enacting the registration requirement for anyone conducting surveys in the state of Florida. "One of his favorite memories was when FSPLS, now FSMS, along with the help of many large donations, decided to purchase the FSMS building in Tallahassee.

In the early 1980's Buddy along with the help of Bunk Hood, former District 3 Surveyor for the FDOT, formed the Society chapter for the area surrounding Marianna now known as The Chipola Area Chapter.

Buddy also served FSMS as governor for The National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) for several years where he attended meetings in many states and was involved in solving surveyor's questions all over the United States.

His positive attitude served him well at FSMS, earning him three prestigious awards: Director of the Year, 1982; H.O. Peters Surveyor of the Year, 1991; and Life Member, 1992.

Skilled Outdoorsman

A trait Buddy shares with many surveyors is his love of the outdoors. He is a true naturalist with a special interest in animals. He had a lasting friendship with the late Ross Allen, a world-famous herpetologist.

Ross Allen owned the Reptile Institute in Ocala, Florida from November 1929 until it's sale in July 1965, to what is now Silver Springs State Park. Buddy would aid Ross by spending countless hours rehabilitating countless animals, including snakes, alligators, and crocodiles.

To assist in his outdoor activities, he owned many pieces of unusual equipment, a surveyor's 'toys', such as the Marsh Master. Buddy was also an avid pilot. He made many trips with his Cessna 172 traveling all over and served on the Tri County Airport Board.

"Buddy is a true outdoorsman who loved hunting and fishing. My parents purchased a cabin in Gunnison, Colorado and spent every winter hunting elk and mule deer. There were also many summer vacations that included the grandchildren," says Scott.

Faith and Devotion

While health concerns in recent years have prevented him from continuing to practice the surveying occupation which he cherishes, the love of his life Sharon remains by his side while they navigate life after closing the doors of Bannerman Surveyors, Inc. in 2019.

They remain dedicated to their family and community, remaining active with the First Presbyterian Church in Marianna and The Marianna Lions Club. They enjoy keeping up with yardwork and spending time with their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. There is never a day that goes by that you will not find Buddy tinkering or designing a new plan for his next project.

Additionally, Buddy received The Life Member award from the Lions Club in 2020 where he has continued to serve for over 60 years.

We proudly honor this great FSMS Pioneer, Buddy Bannerman, for his dedication in furthering the surveying profession and the high caliber of integrity in which he has conducted his life.