



## Robert Franklin Culpepper

November 8, 1931 - August 13, 2024

Robert Franklin (Bobby) Culpepper, a devoted husband and father, passed away at his home in Jupiter on Tuesday, August 13, 2024.

Born on November 8, 1931, in Kelsey City (now Lake Park), Florida, Bobby was the son of John W. and Ruby Culpepper. He grew up in West Palm Beach and graduated from Palm Beach High School. Bobby served in the US Army during the Korean War and was honorably discharged in 1955.

His dedication to public service was evident throughout his career. He served as Mayor of Jupiter from 1966 to 1968 and was a member of the Palm Beach County Commission from 1968 to 1976. During his tenure, he played a crucial role in acquiring land for public use, which led to significant community improvements. His efforts were instrumental in the development of public parks and beaches in Palm Beach County, including Dubois Park, public beach access from Jupiter to Juno, Bert Winters Park, West Jupiter Community Center, Riverbend Park/Reese Ranch,

Spanish River Park, Okeeheelee Park, and Morikami Park.

Bobby received numerous honors, including the Exemplary Elected Official of the Year Award from The Forum Club of the Palm Beaches. Gayle Pallesen, the executive director of The Forum Club at the time, stated, "Some of the public parks and beaches that exist in Palm Beach County today may not have been possible without his efforts during the 1970s to promote public access and the acquisition of beachfront property through public bonds."

In his personal life, Bobby was an avid boater, fisherman, and rancher. He cherished the time spent on his boat or in his saddle and enjoyed the many conversations and friendships he made along the way. His wit and storytelling were renowned, and he had a tale for every occasion.

In his final year, Bobby focused on documenting his experiences and contributions through his memoir, "He Jumped into Jupiter: What Really Happened." He was proud to see his life's work in print and hoped it would benefit future generations.

Bobby leaves behind his loving wife of 71 years, Anna Lee; sons Michael (Rachelle) and John (Pam); daughter Jennifer; and sister Sharon Hagemann.

Services and burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in Bobby's memory to support the preservation of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum (<https://www.jupiterlighthouse.org>) or to a charitable organization of your choice.

# Cemetery Details

## **Riverside Memorial Park**

19351 SE County Line Road  
Jupiter, FL 33469

# Tribute Wall

RR

“ I first met Bobby in about 1979 in West Palm Beach where we both worked for the same engineering company. He always had a larger vision for what could happen and how to make insurmountable things possible.

*Bobby was the guy who helped me get excited about public service in West Palm Beach, and for that, I have always been grateful.*

*I've also been blessed to know Anna Lee, John, and Michael, and know that they appreciate the beacon of light that Bobby has been to Palm Beach County over the decades. This place is so much better thanks to him.*

*Rick Reikenis*

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**Richard Reikenis** - August 18, 2024 at 10:29 AM

MN

“ The Culpeppers were one of the first families I met when I moved to the Jupiter area in 1969. Mike and I were and still are great friends. I spent a lot of time at his house and got to know his family. There are fewer and fewer people like Mr. Culpepper. He was from the greatest generation, so humble, down to earth, patient, non-judgmental and kind to everyone.

One story I will never forget is when Mike and I when camping at Sal Haven which is now Jonathon's Landing. A hurricane was heading our way and my mother started to panic. She called Mr. Culpepper in the middle of the night. Mr. Culpepper got out of bed and went to rescue Mike and me. I am not sure how he found us but when he did, I will never forget the look when he saw our campsite. We had spent matches all over the place. He made one of his witty comments before he told us to pack up. By the way, the hurricane never made it to Jupiter.

It was a privilege, pleasure, and wonderful experience knowing you and your family. Rest in peace. Mickey Nolen

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**Mickey Nolen** - August 17, 2024 at 11:56 AM

RG

“ Although I didn't have many opportunities to see Mr. Culpepper often, I felt we knew him through his son Mike's eyes. Mike was the president of Seven Seas for many years and I had the privilege of working alongside him for 15 yrs. Mike's relationship with his parents was a gift to see and he often shared family stories with our team. We knew his Dad as a man to be respected, and a strong leader who did much to build our community and make it a special place to live. Mike retired from Seven Seas at the end of 2023 and devoted his time to his folks. While his Seven Seas family missed Mike very much, we were happy to know that he had this time to take care of his Dad and his family. As the saying goes 'the apple doesn't fall from the tree' and that holds very true for Mike and his Dad.

*Along with my husband and daughter, we send our most sincere condolences to the Culpepper family and know that Jupiter has lost a great man and son.*

*Renee La Grenade*

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**Renee La Grenade** - August 16, 2024 at 02:30 PM

SH

“ Always my big brother. Love to you all.  
*Sharon Marie*

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**Sharon Hagemann** - August 15, 2024 at 04:12 PM