

South Jersey Quilts of Valor honors Korean War vet

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave
ERMA — It's a tangible

way to thank a veteran for his or her service, a red, white and blue quilt and a public thank you.

On Aug. 28, Korean War veteran John DiGiesi, 91, of North Wildwood, was presented a quilt and matching pillowcase from South Jersey Quilts of Valor during a ceremony at the Forgotten Warriors Vietnam Museum at the Cape May County Airport. He served in the 62nd Engineering Construction Battalion.

Kathy Tweed, of South Jersey Quilts of Valor, said she personally has awarded 300 quilts. Na-

tionally, Quilts of Valor has awarded more than 300,000 quilts. She said Quilts of Valor was founded in 2003 by a woman in Seaforth, Del., who was the mother an Iraqi War veteran.

"She was also a quilter and she envisioned wrapping veterans in a quilt to honor their service and also to provide comfort," Tweed said.

Quilts of Valor has expanded to Australia, New Zealand, Canada and

Great Britain.

South Jersey Quilts of Valor has about 100 members who meet periodically.

"We grab kits, we cut fabric, we create the quilts and then we have the privilege of awarding them to worthy veterans," she said.

The organization meets at the Senior Center in Dennisville on the first and second Fridays of each month.

The first quilts were

awarded in veterans hospitals.

"Though we may never know the extent of your sacrifice to protect and defend the United States of America, we award this Quilt of Valor as an expression of gratitude from a grateful nation," Tweed told DiGiesi.

The quilt contained his name and the date of presentation. Three women in New Jersey and Pennsyl-

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DAVID OWEN CLEMANS, 80

David Owen Clemans passed away with his family by his side on Sunday, Aug. 28, 2022. He was 80 years old.

David will be missed dearly by his devoted wife, Christina, his children, grandchildren and great-granddaughter.

Born in Gloversville, N.Y., he graduated with a master's degree in fine arts from University of Maryland; owned the art gallery, Juxtapose, in Westfield, N.J., and eventually settled in Cape May.

Dave and Christina lov-



CLEMANS

ingly restored and operated a bed and breakfast inn, The John F. Craig House, which they operated along with their son, Guy, for more than 22 years. Dave was an accomplished artist specializing in oil painting, a published author, poet and musician.

He was an excellent chef both professionally and at home and delighted in cooking for family and friends. He was often referred to as a true "Renaissance man."

He dedicated his life to the arts and preservation of the physical history of America and volunteered much of his time to many philanthropic causes in Cape May. He, along with Chris, supported the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts (MAC) Music Festival, Project Encore for the renovation of Cape May Stage and Theater, Exit Zero Jazz Festivals, the Harriet Tubman Museum and most recently the Cape May Point Science Center.

Dave also served on many boards and commissions — the Cape May Historic Preservation Commission, Cape May County Open Space Review Board, Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities and Cape May Stage.

A lifelong preservationist, he restored his beloved 16th-century home, Lindenwood, followed by the restoration of the Batts

Lane Whalers' Cottages in Lower Township. The historic Whalers' Cottages were donated to the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and later passed on to the Harriet Tubman Museum, thus preserving their history and that of the Underground Railroad in Cape May County.

David is survived by his wife of 41 years, Christina Clemans; son Guy Portewig and wife, Mary Pat Myers; daughter Stacy Schwarz and husband, Tom; and grandchildren Roger and Sarah Portewig, Christina and Elizabeth Schwarz, Mary Stewart Nathan and husband, Cole; and great-granddaughter Adeline. Also survived by nieces Christine Connors, Kathy Reasor and three children from a previous marriage.

David was an entrepreneur, a man of many talents and a true gentleman. Always well-dressed, he felt good manners were important and he often let it be known that this should indeed matter to everyone. Intolerant of mediocrity, he was known on occasion to be a bit of a curmudgeon but often amazed friends and family with his intellect and ability to remember every detail of what he read.

He was a unique man dedicated to his home, family and the community but especially to the love of his life, his wife, Christina. He

will be missed.

To celebrate Dave's life, friends will be received from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29, at the Corinthian Yacht Club of Cape May, 1819 Delaware Ave. in Cape May, with a celebration of Dave's life to follow in the form of family and friends sharing thoughts, memories and sentiments.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to: The Harriet Tubman Museum of Cape May, Cape May Point Science Center or Cape Regional Medical Center Foundation by visiting Dave's personal memorial page online at inmemof.org/dave-clemans for your convenience and acknowledgment purposes. To share condolences, visit spilkerfuneralhome.com.



MARY MARCY MECRAY
GOSSELIN, 82

Mary Marcy Mecray Gosselin, born June 19, 1940, succumbed to complications from a routine medical procedure Sept. 4, 2022. She was a longtime resident of Dothan, Ala., and native of Cape May.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Jane Marcy Davis Mecray; father, James Rice Mecray; her loving husband Robert (Bob) Ronald Gosselin; and her brothers John Marcy Mecray and Jeremiah Eldredge Mecray.

She is survived by her sons Robert Ronald Gosselin Jr. (Hope) of Knoxville, Tenn., and Andrew Marcy Gosselin (Lavonda) of Dothan, Ala.; daughter Susan Jane Gosselin Illgen (Joel) of Oklahoma City, Okla.; 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Marcy is a descendant of the Marcy family, original settlers of Cape May. She and Bob migrated south to Dothan in 1978 to do the work of God in ministry.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Evergreen Presbyterian Church Food Pantry, 1103 N. Pontiac Ave., Dothan, AL 36303.

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