



ASHTON JAMES HAYWARD, JR.
July 20, 1942 – February 8, 2023

Ashton James Hayward, Jr., a devoted husband to his wife of 61 years and a caring father of four, died on Wednesday, February 8, 2023. He was 81.

Throughout his lengthy illness, Ashton's wife, Sandy, was constantly at his side, offering unreserved support, and he in turn, never wavered in his devotion to her.

Both Pensacola natives, they were sweethearts at Pensacola High School, he 16 years old and she 15 when they met. He grew up in the adjoining neighborhood of North Hill.

Ashton graduated from Pensacola Junior College, then joined his father's business, Pensacola Building Supply Co. He served on the board of the Florida Concrete Products Association.

He was an avid golfer who was on his high school team and had the gift of teaching others. He was a board member of the Pensacola Sports

Association and the Pensacola Interstate Fair and a volunteer for Pensacola Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

He was formerly a member of the Revelers of Ariola as well as several other Mardi Gras and Fiesta of Five Flags organizations.

Ashton is preceded in death by his parents, Edith and Ashton Hayward; his sister, Christine Sherrill, and his brother, James D. Hayward.

In addition to his wife Sandy, Ashton is survived by one son, Ashton James Hayward III (An); three daughters, Mary Christine Yurchukonis (Joe), Lauren Boothe (Robby), and Paula James (Charles). He is also survived by a sister, Edith “Nikki” Wiltshire; five grandchildren, Aiden Hayward, Ashton and Alex Yurchukonis, and Sawyer and Colette James; as well as seven nieces and nephews.

The family is grateful for the staunch friendship of Jack Behr over many decades. They also acknowledge the assistance of Gentiva Hospice and its wonderful staff.

The Rev. Susan Sowers will officiate at a memorial service at 11:00 a.m., Friday, February 17, 2023 at St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church, where Ashton was a member for 50 years. A reception will follow the service in the parish hall.

In lieu of flowers the family would be grateful for contributions to St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church, 3200 N. 12th Ave., Pensacola, FL 32503, or to the donor’s charity of choice.