



Capt. Charles "Charlie" Bland

February 28, 1939 - June 27, 2025

Charles P. Bland of Ocala, Florida passed away on Friday, June 27, 2025, in his home surrounded by his loved ones at the age of 86. Charles, son of Arthur and Catherine (Lombard) Bland was born on Tuesday, February 28, 1939, in New York City, Borough of Manhattan, New York.

Charles, affectionately known as "Papa" is survived by his daughter, Lynnette Stewart, stepson, Brad Schaffner, grandchildren, Matthew Bland, Madison Stewart, and Charles H. Stewart IV. Charles is also survived by his sister, Kathleen (Mike) Tobin along with many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers: Arthur Jr., Richard, and Donald.

Charles graduated from All Hallows High School in Bronx, New York in 1956. He attended the United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, New York and graduated from the Academy in the class of 1960.

He was a Cadet Seaman from 1957 to 1958. He became 3rd Mate Seaman in 1960 until 1964. He then became 3rd/2nd Chief Mate Seaman until 1966 when he became Chief Mate Seaman. He then became Captain with American President Lines of San Francisco, California until he retired in 1977. Charles was then the youngest Seaman to become a ship's Captain with American President Lines. He also served in the United States Naval Reserves as a Lieutenant Junior from 1962 to 1997.

Charles, also known to his friends as Charlie or Capt. Charlie, was always there to lend a helping hand and sage advice to friends and family. He very

positively affected many people's lives.

Charles traveled the World and loved to share the stories of his travels.

However, the highlights of his life were his relationships with his daughter and grandchildren.

Charles considered himself a simple Seman, but there was nothing "simple" about this accomplished, honorable man.

A Mass of the Resurrection will be Celebrated on Thursday, August 21st at 10:30 am at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church, 5 SE 17th Street Ocala, Florida. Inurnment with Military Honrs will follow at Good Shepherd Memorial Gardens, Tranquility Mausoleum.

Cemetery Details

Good Shepherd Memorial Gardens

5050 SW 20th Street
Ocala, FL 34474

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

AUG 21. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Blessed Trinity Catholic Church
5 SE 17th Street
Ocala , FL 34471

Graveside Service with Military Honors

AUG 21. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Good Shepherd Mauselum Chapel
5050 SW 20th Street
Ocala, FL 34482

Tribute Wall

JL

“ Having only recently learned of Captain Bland's passing, my wife, Linda, and I want to extend our very deepest condolences to his family.

I was fortunate to make Charlie's acquaintance in June of 1966 when we became shipmates on the SS Steel Fabricator, an Isthmian Lines ship on the New York and U.S. Gulf Coast to India run. We were both new in our respective jobs, Charlie as Chief Mate and I as Second Mate. Each voyage lasted about four months with a month in the U. S. and three months foreign. We were both wanting to gain sea time in order to raise our licenses and we remained on the ship for a year.

I have often recalled some of the experiences we had during our seagoing time.

We witnessed the start of the short-lived Arab-Israeli War in June of 1966 as the ship was transiting the Suez Canal. We found out several days later that our ship was among the last to clear the canal before it closed in what became a two-year shutdown.

On one voyage, we make a call at Beirut and spent several days as the cargo piers were occupied by U. S. Naval vessels from the 6th Fleet. We experienced the city when it was known as the commercial hub or "Switzerland" of the Middle East and before it slid into a seemingly endless civil war.

We once carried a cargo of four Arabian horses from Port Said, Egypt to New York. Each horse was in its own wooden stall carried on the ship's deck and Charlie, born and bred in New York City, became the "horse tender. The shipper provided instructions about feeding, stall cleaning and general well-being of the animals, including giving a horse an enema (none of us volunteered!). Thank's to Charlie's diligence, the horses arrived in New York in good shape.

On the same voyage, a ship's cook suffered an appendicitis while transiting the Mediterranean Sea and. Charlie, being the Medical Officer was called upon for treatment. He was great at involving the other licensed officers in all things and brought us in to the treatment procedures. At that time, there were radio networks that contacted regional hospitals to assist in such shipboard cases and we worked with a hospital in Rome via ship's radio. The crew member was put ashore at our next port, Alicante Spain, and received further treatment.

We both left the ship in New York in June, 1967.

We became reacquainted in San Francisco in 1971. Charlie was sailing for American President Lines as Second Mate and I was the Stevedore Superintendent at he APL Terminal. We maintained contact whenever he was import and he visited our home in San Francisco and, later, Walnut Creek on several occasions.

We, again, resumed contact about twenty years ago and emailed our funny stuff from time to time.

Charlie was genuine, what you saw was whet you got. There was no phoniness about him. He was also very generous and welcoming. If Charlie was your friend, you had a true friend. While in New York, he introduced me to some of his family and included me in his circle of friends.

Charlie wasn't satisfied with the status quo, he had a curious mind and always seemed to be looking for a better solution to doing things.

We all need a friend like Charlie.

Our sincerest sympathies,

*John and Linda Lunkes
8210 49th Street Court, West*

University Place, WA 98467.

jlunkes@wamai.net

John Lunkes - April 03 at 02:02 PM

LE

“ *Love, Ed & Eileen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Capt. Charles "Charlie" Bland.*

Love, Ed & Eileen - August 15, 2025 at 03:38 PM

LE

“ *Love, Ed & Eileen purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Capt. Charles "Charlie" Bland.*



Love, Ed & Eileen - August 15, 2025 at 03:38 PM