

Donald Booth Moore (1926-2012)



Donald was born in Miami, FL on October 27, 1926. His family moved to Melbourne, FL, and then to Ft. Pierce in 1929, where his father was editor of the local newspaper. He attended local schools until 1942 when he went to National Youth Administration School in Tampa, FL. After returning to Fort Pierce, Donald worked for Backus Boat Yard before joining the Navy. He was trained in Jacksonville, FL. In 1943 he was stationed on a light cruiser, the Omaha, patrolling the South Atlantic. Their ship sunk two German blockade runners who were delivering supplies to Germany from Argentina. They travelled to southern France for the 1944 invasion against the Germans. After WWII he was returned to Philadelphia where he helped decommission the Omaha. He was discharged in 1946 and remained in the Naval Reserve until 1959. Returning to Ft. Pierce, he joined the St. Lucie County Fire Department in April of 1946. In 1947, he became a bonded deputy with the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Department and attended bomb school in Dade County, FL. He worked with Explosive Ordinance Team #2 in the recovery and demolition of WWII explosive ordinance, TNT, and land mines that were left on the beaches of St. Lucie County when the Naval amphibious base was closed. In 1961 he enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve in a port security unit, retiring as Chief Warrant Officer in 1981. During this time, he remained with the fire department for 32 years, serving as Fire Marshal for 20 years and later as Assistant Chief. He retired as the Chief of the Fort Pierce - St. Lucie Fire District in April 1978. Upon retirement, he was awarded a lifetime membership in the International Association of Bomb Technicians. During his retirement, Donald remained busy with volunteer work. He was on the St. Lucie County Museum Board of Directors, serving as Secretary for several years. He served as Alderman for St. Lucie Village 8 years and was on the board of Old St. Lucie School. He was a Commander and Quarter Master for the local North Side VFW post. He was a member of St. Andrews Episcopal Church for 68 years. Donald married Polly Ann Summerlin in 1950, and together they had five children; three daughters Tina, Dorothy, Mary Ann, and two sons Donald and Fred.