Florida Baptist Historical Society Biography Collection

This link provides the specific resource information which documents and undergirds the biographical resource information on a specific Florida Baptist pastors, church staff or significant laity leaders.

The link you have chosen connects to the specific individual's resource files that provide the basis for information which the Historical Society has used to develop the respective biographical profile. The sources attached may include copies of articles gleaned from back issues of the *Florida Baptist Witness* and other news publications. Other resources include books, historical journal articles and church histories that are cited as documentation for the biography.

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Sweeney, Walter, III (1937-2023) was born in Bossier Parish, Louisiana the son of Walter Campbell, Jr. and Midge Murray Sweeney. He graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Sweeney served as pastor of churches in Colorado, Virginia and Florida including Tamiami Baptist Church, Miami. He and his wife, Mary Elizabeth Campbell Sweeney had two daughters.

She is survived by her husband, James Franklin Smith, MD; son, James (Jay) Hampton Smith; daughter, Midge Murray Smith and future son-in-law, David Spong. Additional survivors include her mother, Midge Sweeney; brother, Rev. Walter C. Sweeney, III and his wife Mary; an uncle, Jack Murray; her mother-in-law, Marcella Smith; sisters and brothers-in-law, Shirley and David Adair, Carmolita Haney, Audrey and Steve Ware; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

MIAMI DAILY NEWS
LOCAL SPORTS CLASSIFIED
SECOND SECTION MIAMI, FLA., FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 1942 PAGE 1-B

AWAIT HERO'S ARRIVAL—Happily awaiting the arrival here of Lieut. Col. Walter Campbell Sweeney, jr., 33-year-old war bird hero of the battle of Midway, are his wife, center, and his two children, Edythe Anne, 2, left, and Walter Sweeney III, right, aged 5. A telephone call from Sweeney in San Francisco Thursday revealed he will soon arrive to visit with them at 901 Castile ave., Coral Gables, where they have been visiting.—Park Madison photo and Associated Press photo of Colonel Sweeney.

2-A Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press Friday, Dec. 24, 1965

GEN. WALTER C. SWEENEY

Gen. Walter C. Sweeney, who retired from the Air Force in August, died Wednesday night of cancer in Homestead Air Force Base Hospital. He was 56.

Sweeney is survived by his widow, the former Miss Minnie Belle Murray of Fort Myers, a son, Capt. Walter C. Sweeney III at Homestead and a daughter, Mrs. James F. Smith.

Sweeney was at Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941, when the Japanese attack brought the United States into World War II. He is a former commander of the Tactical Air Command. Mrs. Sweeney is a former Miss Fort Myers and Miss Florida.

Burial will be Monday in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va.

vices 9:15 and 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.

Tamiami Baptist Church: 860 SW 76th Ct.; 261-1464. The Rev. Walter Sweeney, pastor. Sunday school 9:30 a.m.; worship services 11 a.m. and 6

Walter Sweeney Obituary
Obituary published on Legacy.com by Hollomon-Brown Funeral Home & Crematory - Tidewater Drive Chapel on May 17, 2023.
Walter "Walt" Campbell Sweeney III, age 85, died on May 12, 2023 at his home in Norfolk, Virginia.
Walt was born in Bossier Parish, Louisiana at Barksdale Air Force Base to Walter Campbell "Cam" Sweeney Jr. and his wife, Midge Murray Sweeney. As the son of an Air Force officer, he moved around quite a bit growing up and always relayed to his family and friends many interesting stories of those early years. Upon completion of preparatory school, Walt attended the Air Force Academy where he graduated in 1960. At this same time, he was commissioned as an officer and then headed to flight school to become a fighter pilot.
After training as a pilot and serving stateside, Walt was sent to VietNam where he served dutifully throughout 1966 and 1967. While there he flew 190 combat missions, earning three Air Medals, a Bronze Medal, and a Distinguished Flying Cross. Soon after this, he met his beloved wife Mary Elizabeth Campbell. The two had a swift courtship and then tied the knot and married in November of 1968. Upon his return from VietNam, Walt remained a fighter pilot and a fighter pilot instructor until 1974.
In 1975, Walt felt called to become a minister where he could have an eternal impact on people's lives so off he went to Southwestern Seminary where he earned a 94 hour Master of Divinity. Walt served faithfully as a pastor in three churches in Colorado, Virginia, and Florida for twenty plus years. He had a passion for ministry, especially to those who were hurting, and a shepherd's heart with each congregation.
He and his wife Mary, retired in Norfolk, Virginia in 1997 where he continued his remaining years teaching at his church, volunteering in local nursing homes and assisted care facilities playing instrumental music on his keyboard and encouraging the residents until he could no longer do these things. As a husband, father, and grandfather, Walt was faithful, kind, loving, and good to his family. To those who knew him, he was a loyal and trustworthy friend. He always enjoyed playing the piano and spending time with his family and friends.
Walter is survived by his devoted wife of 55 years, Mary Elizabeth "Mary" Sweeney (Norfolk, VA) his daughter, Mary Elizabeth "Beth" Sweeney Newman and her husband Paul Newman (Durham, NC), his daughter Debbie's husband, Philip Stover (Virginia Beach, VA), and three grandchildren, Andrew Sweeney, Joshua Newman, and Abigail Newman. Walter was preceded in death by his youngest daughter, Deborah "Debbie" Kay Sweeney Stover, his parents, Walter Campbell and Midge Murray Sweeney, and his sister, Anne Murray Smith,
There will be a viewing at Hollomon-Brown Princess Anne Chapel, 3445 Princess Anne Road, Virginia Beach at 1:30 pm on Friday, May 19th and a graveside service at Charity United Methodist Church Cemetery, 4080 Charity Neck Road, Virginia Beach at 3 PM on the same day.
In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Walt's name to the Alzheimer's Association.