



FGFOA Tribute to Past President Richard Coram



Richard “Rick” Michael Coram, CPA of Jacksonville Beach, passed away on Thursday, March 28, 2024.

Rick was born in Huntington, West Virginia, where he spent his early years working at his father’s bar, before serving 4 years in the U.S. Navy. He was preceded in death by his wife of many years, Norma Jean Coram, who passed away in 2017. Rick has two children: Helena and Rick (Richard) and two grandchildren Jonah and Gabe. He devoted these later years to caring for his sister and then his aunt, mother, and wife. Rick enjoyed spending time outside working on his home and yard and playing tennis with his good friends Andy and Bob.

“What words can be said that can adequately convey and describe the person I know as Rick Coram. Rick was an associate, compadre, buddy, co-worker, a kind, considerate, and caring man. In my estimation Rick was a “gentleman’s gentleman!” Always courteous and kind, his never-ending warm smile and thoughtful words resonated with everyone with whom he came into contact. He was a leader and mentor to many in both the City of Jacksonville, the FGFOA, and society. Rick would always provide guidance and assistance in any

manner. Always helping folks with governmental business, accounting, auditing questions.

Additionally, Rick was a good tennis player and a great dancer. Above and beyond any description by which he can be portrayed, I am honored and privileged to be able to give him the best adjective by which I and many others could call him - my friend. You will be missed but not forgotten."

William (Bill) F. Underwood

Rick, a graduate of the University of South Florida, joined the City of Jacksonville in 1970 as a staff auditor. In 1977, he was promoted by then council Auditor and past president Bob Johnson to Assistant Council Auditor, a position he held for the next 21 years. Rick was President of the FGFOA from 1998-1999 and was the very 1st recipient of the "Lifetime Achievement Award" in 2001. The City of Jacksonville honored Rick in 1998 with the following:

"Mr. Coram's abilities of insightful analysis, determined pursuit of all the relevant facts, keen ability to ask the right questions at the right times, and unparalleled ability to clearly and concisely explain the most complicated financial concepts and accounting transactions have been of inestimable value to the policy makers for whom he has worked."

Rick will be missed by his family and friends, but the legacy he leaves behind will not be forgotten.

