



GUEST BOOK – ILONA EDWARDS
ORLANDO SENTINEL
December 2008 - January 2009



Tuesday, December 30, 2008

I met Ilona in 1991, when she ran OPD's Citizen Academy. What a megawatt smile she had, and a sunny personality to boot. She exemplified the best of the force, a dedicated public servant. She loved her daughters so much and was so proud of every accomplishment they achieved. The only consolation in all of this, is that she is with her beloved Charlie and her mom. Godspeed, Ilona. May you now realize how many lives you have touched.

—Jane Watrel, Alexandria, Virginia

Monday, December 29, 2008

I would like to express my sympathies to Ilona's daughters. I went to high school with her and she was such a lovely person!! I didn't know her really well, and we didn't know each other in the capacity that we kept in touch. However, I, too became a police officer and it is a profession I'm sure she loved. My condolences.

—Linda Spencer/O'Brien, Miami, Florida

Monday, December 29, 2008

I worked with Ilona for just under 4 years. What a great person. She helped me in rough times and was always thinking of others. She loved her daughters for sure...talked of you daily. You are lucky to have had a mother like Ilona. Have faith...she is with Charlie and your Grandmother...for sure...and will be your Guardian Angel forever.

—Hank Halbert, Conway, Florida

Monday, December 29, 2008

I am so sad to hear of Ilona's passing. Many of my fondest memories at Boone include her, especially when we decided to start our own club, Exchangettes. She never let anyone get her down and was always a good friend to everyone she met. Ilona will be missed by many.

—Susan Santarsiero Simon, Atlanta, Georgia

Monday, December 29, 2008

Ilona was a friend to me at Boone many years ago. She was so sweet, and I remember when we met, that I told her that her name was so similar to my grandmother's, Iona. Please accept my sympathy and know I will have her and all of you in my prayers.

—Patty (Alene) (Oelschlager) Gauthier, Bradenton, Florida

Monday, December 29, 2008

My name is Sandy Stuart. I am a 1971 graduate. My father passed away almost at this time 2 years ago. No words can be said other than I deeply share your feelings. I remember her also from Spanish club. She was an energetic and brilliant classmate. My prayers and thoughts are with your family. Sandra Stuart Ormond Beach

—Sandra Stuart, Ormond Beach, Florida

Monday, December 29, 2008

I knew your mom from Boone, she was such a bright, cheerful person. My thoughts and prayers go out to those dealing with this loss.

—Joel Roberts, Jay, Florida

Monday, December 29, 2008

I met Ilona as a new student at Boone in 1968. She was a sweet person and made me feel welcomed at my new school. I feel blessed to have known her even for so short a time.

Lynn Taylor

—J. Lynn (elliott) Taylor, McDonough, Georgia

Monday, December 29, 2008

Your mom sat in front of me in Spanish class at Boone and we became friends. Years later, when Lindsay was in child care at First Presbyterian Church with our son, Matt, we became friends again with Ilona and your Dad. Over the years I would run into your mom and it was like that first day she made me feel special at Boone all over again. Your folks were amazing and I know your mom is still making others smile and laugh. Too few people shine so brightly.

—Rick Ellenburg, Orlando, Florida

Sunday, December 28, 2008

Condolences from your Washington State relatives. We loved visiting your family. Bubbles always made us feel very welcome. We will miss her hospitality and engaging personality. Remember the good times. She and Charlie are together again.

—Joan, Mike, and Jeff Fabiani, Tacoma, Washington

Sunday, December 28, 2008

Susie, Lindsey and Emily:

I send my sincerest condolences. I know that there are no words that can express or define the loss. You shall find comfort in your loving memories, which will slowly replace the aching throbs of your heart. Although I only met Ilona over a few visits to the house, I quickly learned that she was a very special person to so many. She quickly greeted me and made me feel right at home. May God comfort and strengthen you all during your time of bereavement.

—Ozzie Smith, Winter Park, Florida

Sunday, December 28, 2008

I feel so blessed to have had such an awesome mother. I rest assured knowing she and my daddy are finally together again... for eternity.

—Lindsey Edwards, Orlando, Florida

Sunday, December 28, 2008

Lindsey, Emily & Susie,

I want to start by offering you my deepest condolences! I have so many memories of your parents at our house weekly, if not more often. My father also retired from OPD and was very much involved with the Sunshine Foundation.

Susie, we spent time together in the Police Explorers, I hope you always remember the good times, they loved you dearly!

Please know that all of you have so many people to turn to if you need anything! You were truly blessed to have such wonderful, loving and caring parents. Seek comfort in knowing that they are once again together, happy, smiling and continue to watch over you.

Karen Stum-Wallace

—Stum-Wallace Karen, Tavares, Florida

Sunday, December 28, 2008

My mom (Anne Griffin Conway) taught school for many years at Pershing Elementary when Bubbles' mom, Joanna, was secretary. Jan Ebert was principal for a lot of that time. I have so many fond memories of those years—it was a very special faculty. Joanna was so proud of her kids and, of course, her grandkids when they came along. I'm saddened to read of Bubbles' passing.

—Lisa Rankin, Longwood, Florida

Saturday, December 27, 2008

Dearest Lindsey and Emily,

We share such fond memories of your dad and sweet mom. They were both so generous and loving. I can still hear your mom laughing at the D.A.R.E. fair while Charlie tried to help me up on one of the police horses (without touching me!). My prayers and thoughts are with you. I will miss Ilona as I know you do. May God comfort you.

Love,

Mrs. May

Your Kindergarten teacher

—Charlene May, Orlando, Florida

Saturday, December 27, 2008

I remember Lindsey in my 5th grade class and her mom, Ilona, always helping and providing supplies. I'm so sad to hear of her early death. She led a wonderful life!

—Melanie Kutz, Orlando, Florida

Saturday, December 27, 2008

Lindsey and Emily,

You both, and your family, are in my thoughts and prayers. I know you two will always know the love both your parents had for you. Anyone that knew your parents knew Bubbles and Charlie loved "there girls".

God Bless

Sherri

—Sherri McGaughy Smith, Dothan, Alabama

Friday, December 26, 2008

She was the lady with the huge heart that made me feel so welcome when I worked with her at OPD. And she was the lady who gave my boss and I the great goodbye party when we left OPD. I will always think of Ilona with much love and gratitude. I send my sympathy out to her entire family. She was loved.

—Mary Bolton, Orlando, Florida

Friday, December 26, 2008

My sister and I are deeply saddened to learn about "Bubbles". When we first moved into our house on Charow Lane, Bubbles and her sister, JoJo were the first neighborhood girls we met.

We both remember such good times at the Fekete house!

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Fekete/Edwards families.

Linda (Boyden)Moore & Jeanie(Boyden)Howell

—Linda Moore, Orlando, Florida

Friday, December 26, 2008

My friendship with Ilona was never in Orlando. Ilona and I were friends for over 40 years. We met in a Highschool English class, and although my family moved back to the west coast the following year, we remained best friends for all this time. We were each others maids of honor at our weddings, twice, each. We travelled to Europe for five months in 1971, and throughout our lifetimes, we also visited New York, New Orleans, San Francisco, Mexico, and again, after Charlie's death, Sicily. My understanding husband led that trip two and a half years ago. In the decade of the 90s we spent almost every year for two weeks together with her daughters, Lindsey and Emily, skiing in my homestate of Utah. In the last year as Ilona's health declined, four or five days never went by without a phone call from one of us to the other. Ours was a true friendship, and because of the distance between us, we never wasted a minute together. I will miss you dearly, my friend. Until we meet again, your "Doobee" (do be a good bee) Ilona's nickname for me.

—Judy and Jay Jacobsen, San Diego, California

Thursday, December 25, 2008

I first met Bubbles (Ilona) when she was a secretary for the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration where she began dating a young Orlando Sgt named Charlie Edwards. Their love was one they write stories about. I know she never got over the loss she felt when Charlie passed. What kept her going was the love she had for her daughters. A lovely lady, a good officer, and a wonderful friend. I will miss her beautiful smile

—Jack Barrett

Thursday, December 25, 2008

Christmas day is here, but sadly my precious friend "Loonie" is not. How lucky Jim and I have been for the last 8 years to have her as a best friend and neighbor. As unlikely as our friendship may have seemed at first, it grew into a loving and nuturing bond that changed our lives forever. Her wit and intelligence were only surpassed by her unconditional love and generosity. She loved Christmas ---and we LOVED her. God speed my buddy!

—Terri and Jim Chute, Orlando, Florida

Thursday, December 25, 2008

I will always remember you Ilona for your warm smile and caring words. I have always believed that being a Police officer was a calling, not just a job. You proved that to me every time I went to you for help with a Community project.. You were always there to lend a hand starting with the fund raiser you and I came up with for Dorothy Reid Lewis, and the help you gave me in acquiring gifts for the less fortunate Children at Christmas time in 1997. Your heart was as big as Orlando, and you will be missed. Peace be with you.

—Roger New, Granite, Oklahoma

Thursday, December 25, 2008

We would like to offer our condolences to the family, friends and co-workers of Ilona Edwards. We were graduates of Class 8 (fall of 1988) of the Citizens Police Academy and found Ilona to be one of the friendliest and most helpful people at OPD throughout the 12-week course. Her enthusiasm and devotion to this program made the experience one that we will never forget. She was "full of life" and a pleasure to know.

—Dave & Nancy Fulton, Fruitland Park, Florida

Thursday, December 25, 2008

I've known Ilona since our years together at Pershing Elementary School. Most appropriate about Ilona was her nickname "Bubbles" for her bubbly personality. I'll always remember her as the positive, energetic, cheerleader at Boone High. After my returning from the Navy in 1988 and becoming involved in our high school reunion planning meetings, I became closer to Ilona and her family.

Thanks Ilona for taking time out of your busy life for me and including me in some family events. It really helped me feel welcomed back to Orlando. I'll really miss you!

Lindsey and Emily, if there is anything I can do for you, just call.

—Bruce Thompson, Casselberry, Florida

Thursday, December 25, 2008

A beautiful lady with a warm heart. Ilona will be greatly missed. Our sincere and deepest sympathies to her family.

—Dorinda & John Howe, Ponca City, Oklahoma

Thursday, December 25, 2008

Ilona and I were both graduates from Boone High School Class of 1970, We both continued our careers with the City of Orlando. She was always that sweet girl with a big smile and would do anything for you. I will miss her loving spirit and her great attitude towards others.

Randy Tuten, Deputy Fire Chief Retired

—Randy Tuten, Orlando, Florida

Thursday, December 25, 2008

I first met Ilona in junior high school. We both attended Cherokee Junior High School. All of my memories were of her smiling and being full of energy. I moved away and did not see Ilona again until I became a part of the OPD family. I was so surprised to find out that Ilona was part of that family. What did not surprise me was that Ilona had not changed; she still smiled all of the time and she was still so full of energy. Ilona, you will be missed as a wonderful person and as a fellow sister of the OPD family.

—Penny Young, Orlando, Florida

Thursday, December 25, 2008

My heart goes out to the entire family for the loss of Harold (Ilona). She was an incredible friend to me over the many years that I have known her and I will always treasure her friendship and miss her terribly. I feel blessed to have had her in my circle of friends.

Nancy (Mallory) Lavalley

—Nancy Lavalley, Edgewater, Florida

Thursday, December 25, 2008

Thank you for the opportunity to give you my condolences for Ilona. I was long gone from OPD when Ilona joined the force, but I have heard many wonderful things about her professionalism and spirit. Now Ilona, and my former sargeant Charlie Edwards, can rest together in peace.

All the best wishes,

Bob Buettgens

OPD 1973 to 1977

—Bob Buettgens, Geneva, New York

Thursday, December 25, 2008

Ilona was a wonderful lady. I worked with her many years. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. You were so lucky to have her as your Mom.

Judy Gillett and Family

—Judy Gillett, Deland, Florida

Tuesday, December 30, 2008

My heart goes out to her daughters, Emily, Lindsey and Susie. Ilona loved them so much and never failed to talk about all their accomplishments and the joys they brought to her. Ilona was such a happy person, always giving to others while asking very little for herself. When the love of her life, Charlie, passed away, she held on for her daughters. They can be comforted in the knowledge that she and their dad are together forever. She's at peace now in God's gentle hands. .

—Guy Ann Sheffield, Southaven, Mississippi

Tuesday, December 30, 2008

Ilona and I were very close friends in our younger years. We spent many nights at each other's house just having fun and getting into mischief. I'll never forget the time we sneaked into my mother's room and read her romance novels. We laughed until we cried. Ilona was a sweet, fun loving person. She was always positive about everything, and always wanting to help someone do something. Ilona will be missed by everyone who knew her, however we can all be comforted in knowing she is now at peace and in the loving arms of her parents, husband and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our deepest sympathies and prayers go out to her family. With love Tom and Bobbi

—Tom and Bobbi Poole, Orlando, Florida

Tuesday, December 30, 2008

I am so sad to read that Ilona passed away. She was so young and full of life. I worked with her for many years in the Crime Prevention area and enjoyed her smiles and positive attitude. She will be missed and my prayers go out to the family.

Patty Wells, (OCSO)

—Patty Wells, Orlando, Florida

Wednesday, December 31, 2008

Among the myriad talents that Ilona possessed, she was an amazing hostess. Her events, down to every minute detail, were not to be missed. One of her greatest feats was planning and executing my wedding. Anyone in attendance will remember it as an amazing affair. I will always be grateful to her for that. It is my solemn vow to help plan and execute Lindsey and Emily's future weddings with as many personal touches; hoping to make Ilona proud.

—Sarah Edwards-Luter, Southlake, Texas

Wednesday, December 31, 2008

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—Sarah Edwards-Luter, Southlake, Texas

Wednesday, December 31, 2008

I was a fellow classmate from Cherokee Jr. High through Boone High. I didn't know Ilona closely, but had many mutual friends that were very close to her. I was always so impressed with her positive attitude and her kindness to everyone she met. Heaven has gained an extra special angel. God bless you and yours Ilona.

Judy Roberts Horne

Class of 1970

—Judy Horne, Longwood, Florida

Thursday, January 01, 2009

Lindz & Em:

Your mom definately left behind a wonderful legacy. Her heart was full of gold. I will never forget her kind, compassionate soul. I know she's in heaven with your dad smiling down at her two greatest accomplishments (you guys)! You know I'm here for you and I'm so blessed to have known your mom. Love ya!

—Brianne Blakely, Orlando, Florida

OTHER MESSAGES VIA THE OPD RETIREE / ACTIVE NEWSLETTER

December 21, 2008

There is a very nice and well written article in the obits today, December 28th, about Illona. You may already know about it.

Earle Sanborn

December 21, 2008

Al and I want to send our condolences to Ilona's family. May God give you comfort at this sad time. God Bless!

Sincerely,

Linda & Al Wahlberg

December 22, 2008

Ilona and Charlie Edwards were indeed very special people, who were blessed with a special love.

If I can do anything to help with services etc or anything for the girls please don't hesitate to ask.

Laura Covington



Ilona was a special, wonderful person, a great officer and one of the most compassionate and sweetest people you'd ever meet. We are all going to miss her being in our lives. Our hearts goes out to her daughters and the rest of her friends and family. Ilona, we'll miss you.