

Roland Brandquist



Captain Roland Brandquist, USN (Ret.), died on 25 November 2014 in Annapolis, MD, of complications resulting from Alzheimer's disease at the age of 77.

"Ron" was born on 18 September 1937 to Bror and Vera Brandquist. He was raised in Runnemede, NJ, and attended Audubon High School, where he was a standout athlete participating on the football, basketball, baseball and track teams. He was later honored by the high school with his induction into their Ring of Honor. Ron entered the Academy the summer of 1956 and played halfback for Navy, earning three letters (two N*); played on Navy's winning 1958 Cotton Bowl team; and was chosen to play in the

1959 North-South All-Star game. He was 15th Company Commander First Class Year.

Graduating with the Class of 1960, he married his high school sweetheart, Janet. They remained at the Academy while Ron was a coaching assistant, after which Ron reported to Submarine School. He subsequently served on five diesel-electric submarines; including a tour as executive officer of HARDER (SS-568). He then "surfaced" and served as executive officer of RALEIGH (LPD-1) and commanding officer of FRESNO (LST-1182). Returning to the Academy for duty in 1977, Ron was initially Fifth Battalion Officer prior to becoming executive assistant to the superintendent. Other shore assignments included the Naval Postgraduate School, ComSubPac, OpNav, the Naval War College and two command tours: CO of the Naval Education and Training Center Newport, RI, and CO of Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, CA.

Upon retirement, Ron enjoyed much success as a real estate agent in Coronado, CA, followed by his selection to be President/ CEO of the Naval Academy Alumni Association in 1993. At the Alumni Association, Ron established the "President's Circle" to specifically recognize significant alumni donors. The President's Circle recently celebrated its 20th anniversary and continues to be a valuable and immensely successful method of generating annual contributions to the

Association and the Academy. To say Ron was merely Blue & Gold would be a serious understatement. As a long-time trustee of the Academy's Athletic and Scholarship Programs (ASP), he remained connected to Navy athletic programs. Ron is survived by his wife of 54 years, Janet; sons, Geoff '83 and Kurt '84; daughter, Kristin Druggan (Tom '89); ten grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Following a funeral service held in the Naval Academy Chapel, Ron was inurned in the Academy's columbarium on 15 December 2014.

March-April 2015 Shipmate