

DAVID ALAN CHAIN

David Alan "Rusty" Chain, of Chester, VA, died 18 October 1998, at his residence at the age of 61. Mr. Chain was born in Philadelphia PA. He was a 1960 graduate of the Academy and was the founder and president of Steamchek, Inc. Preceded in death by his father, Sterling M. Chain, he is survived by his wife, Katherine R. Chain; three children and their spouses, Deborah Chain and Michael J. Fulghum of Seattle, WA; Diana Chain and Stephen W. Walton of Richmond, VA; David S. and Vanessa G. Chain of Chesterfield; three grandchildren, Jordan and Tucker Walton; Alexander Fulghum, his mother Bernice Chain Weightman of Williamsburg; a brother, Roger S. Chain of Columbus, OH, and a number of nieces and nephews. The family received friends at a memorial service at the Hermitage Road Church of Christ in Richmond VA.

After graduating from Lower Merion High School in Ardmore, PA, he attended Penn State for a year. Upon accepting an appointment at the Naval Academy, he entered with the class of 1960. While at the Academy, he learned to play squash and in his second and first class years, was a valuable member of the squash team. During second class summer, Rusty became interested in flying and decided to enter Navy Air on graduation.

His pre-flight class at Pensacola was the notorious 01-20-60, earning members a reputation which followed all the way to Rusty's first assignment at VP-44 at Pax River. Upon arriving he was remembered by a former pre-flight instructor who mentioned that they changed pre-flight for USNA grads following that class. After training in P-3s the first year in the squadron, he spent the next two years, deploying back and forth to Argentina, Newfoundland. Kathy, his blind date during second class June week, married him in September 1962, and their two daughters were born while at Pax River. In June of 1965, Rusty left the service and went to work for Dupont, in Richmond, VA, a temporary stay that lasted 33 years.

In March 1967, he decided to become self-employed and started an air conditioning company which led to many adventures. Son David was born in 1969 along with his next enterprise. Sun Check Solar Screens mushroomed with the energy crunch, allowing him to go nationwide in 1974. A series of other businesses involved him over the next 20 years including that of assisting Kathy in her own business as a herb and potpourri entrepreneur. More recently, he was national sales manager for Steamsphere Inc., for several years before he turned to forming his own company, Steamcheck, Inc.

During this entire time he was tirelessly devoted to his family and church. Even though his responsibilities took him on the road very often, he was regularly home to coach softball and baseball, help the kids deal with college, and provide quality vacations to the family as often as possible. He was a leader in his church, regularly called upon to assist members and clergy alike, in making sure that Christian ideals and moral principles were supported and demonstrated.

During his years in Richmond, Rusty was active with the local Alumni chapter, serving as president a number of times. He was an active participant and loyal supporter in later years, making his "farm" home in the country, the site of many Alumni picnics. Rusty passed away suddenly, the day after one of his many high points, having spent "homecoming" with Classmates, enjoying a Navy Football game with Kathy, and buying Navy memorabilia for his loved ones. His shipmates and friends gathered at his memorial service, eulogized him and remembered him with the *Navy Hymn*, *Navy Blue and Gold* and a

rousing "Beat Army."

William E. Lewis, Jr., '60
Shipmate, April 1999