

Peter Brown Dolan

We are saddened to announce the death of Commander Peter B. Dolan, USNR (Ret.), on 15 April 2015 at Pasadena, CA, following a brave struggle with multiple myeloma. He was 76 years old.

A native of Brooklyn, NY, Peter went directly from Brooklyn Prep to the Naval Academy, where he was a member of the 10th Company.

Upon graduation with the Class of 1960, he served on a number of surface ships including NORTHAMPTON (CLC-1), MORTON (DD-948) and JOSEPH STRAUSS (DDG-16) until July 1964, when he was released from active duty and joined a Submarine Reserve Unit in Long Beach, CA. He subsequently earned his Dolphins and retired as a commander in the Naval Reserve in 1986.

After graduating from the University of Southern California Law School in June 1967, he began his law career as Deputy LA County Counsel and in 1969, entered private practice. After working in large law firms, his independence, ambition and acute legal mind drove him to open his own law firm in Los Angeles, where he was a formidable litigator. He enjoyed a very active legal practice until November 2013, when his illness limited his mobility. Peter was past president of the Chancery Club and a vice chairman of the Senior Lawyers of the Los Angeles County Bar Association. A high point in his career was winning a case before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1986.

Peter's favorite pastimes were reminiscing with lawyers, judges, USNA classmates and old friends (he had a fantastic memory and wry wit), vacationing with his family and sailing at Pleasant Bay on Cape Cod. He was an active member of the Pasadena Rose Bowl Committee for 41 years.

Peter is survived by his devoted wife of 53 years, the former Jacqueline Elizabeth Gruning, whom he had known since the first grade at St. Anselm School in Brooklyn; daughter, Kerry Anne of San Francisco, CA; son, Peter of Arlington, MA; and six grandchildren, Josie, Catherine, Jeremiah, Xavier, Mara and Becca.

The Dolan Family & Bob Fraser