

RUSSELL ORREN HAYS



Reverend Russell O. Hays of the Foothills Presbyterian Community of Easley, SC, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Friday, 17 August 2012 as a result of Alzheimer's disease. He was 74 years of age.

"Rusty" was noted for his friendly and understanding manner. He was always available to sit and talk about whatever someone wanted to discuss. He entered the Naval Academy on a congressional appointment from his native state of Arkansas. Rusty was a stalwart on the lightweight crew team throughout his years at the Academy. He graduated with the Class of 1960 as a

member of the Seventh Company.

Upon graduation, he was commissioned as an ensign, USN, and reported to Submarine School. Following completion of Submarine School, he spent three tours as a submariner on MEDREGAL (SS-480), DANIEL WEBSTER (SSBN-626) and GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER (SSBN-656) (Gold Crew). After four patrols as navigator on GWC, he surfaced one day and decided it was nice to be home. After leaving active duty, he was active in the Naval Reserve, retiring as a commander. After graduating from Harvard Business School, he enjoyed working for the Nixon Administration Education Department, implementing the desegregation of the southern school systems. It was during this time that an Army chaplain, serving as his interim Presbyterian pastor, began sharing the Good News of Jesus with Rusty. Rusty felt called to also share the Good News, so in 1975, the family moved to Gordon Cromwell Seminary in Massachusetts. He earned master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Gordon Cromwell Seminary in Massachusetts. He then served on pastoral staffs at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, MD, in Singapore, and most recently at First Presbyterian Church in Greenville, SC, for eight years before retiring to Fort Myers, FL. He is survived by his dearly beloved sweetheart of 52 years, the former Betsy Hopkins; daughter, Elizabeth Hays and grandchildren, Lysander, Aurella, Orlando and Tristan Hays Watson of Oxford, Enand. His son, Mark Russell Hays, predeceased him at the age of 43. Memorial services were conducted on 20 August 2012 at First Presbyterian Church in Greenville, SC.

Skip Weeks '60