

Charles Roy Kiger



Commander “Chuck” Kiger, USN (Ret.), died on 30 July 2018 from complications of multiple myeloma.

Chuck came to the Naval Academy direct from Washington, KS, a small farming community. His high school graduating class had 25 students.

Upon graduation from USNA, he was commissioned into the Supply Corps, and initially served on CORAL SEA (CVA-43) and MORTON (DD-948). He was next posted to Polaris Materiel Office Atlantic (PMOLant) in Charleston, SC, for extensive training and then onward to put PMOPac in commission in Bremerton, WA. Most of that duty consisted of outfitting new construction SSBNs and expediting high priority SSBN requirements. Next, it was off to Sub School. After graduation, he was assigned to SAM HOUSTON (SSBN-609) at Holy Loch, Scotland. He made three patrols and a shipyard overhaul on HOUSTON.

He next volunteered for a Vietnam tour. On the way, he met Lieutenant Filomena Louise Grey, a Navy nurse also headed to Danang. At NSA Danang, he served as the “boat support officer.” During his tour, he found time to court Louise. After Vietnam, Chuck was assigned to Navy Supply Corps Headquarters in DC and Louise was assigned to recruiting duty in Dallas. They were married on 27 June 1970 at NAS Dallas. Next for Chuck was the Navy War College in Newport, RI, and then the Navy Supply Depot on Guam. He then headed to the Navy Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. After PG School, Chuck was sent back to PMOPac, Bremerton, WA, where he made commander and became the officer in charge. His last assignment was as Supply Officer for FRANK CABLE (AS-40), a new construction submarine tender. He spent an additional six months after shakedown tending SSNs in Charleston, SC, before retiring in June 1980.

Upon his Navy retirement, the family moved to Santa Fe, NM, where Chuck worked for Merrill Lynch for 14 years and then took early retirement. Next, he followed a flying career with charters from Santa Fe. This was capped with a “job” flying Lear 35s out of Naples, Italy, on a Navy contract. After 3½ years flying all over Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, he made his final retirement to Santa Fe. During their time together, Chuck and Louise traveled extensively, visiting 90 countries.

Chuck is survived by his wife, Louise; three children, Stephanie, Derek and James; and two grandchildren, Stefano and Minami.

October 2018 Shipmate