

Edwin Earl Killinger



Captain Edwin E. Killinger, USN (Ret.) died peacefully at home in Annapolis, MD, on December 18, 2016, from metastatic lung cancer. Born in Ohio and raised in San Diego, he was 78 years old.

Ed was a proud member of the Naval Academy Class of 1960, 5th Company and played football and boxed. Upon graduation, Ed served in a variety of assignments, afloat and ashore, including a tour in the brown-water navy, the riverine force, in Vietnam, was personally commended by the Vietnamese Chief of Naval Operations and awarded the Bronze Star with Combat "V." He went on to command USS PREBLE (DDG-46) and USS HORNE (CG-30) and served as the Director, Anti-Air Warfare Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

Ed excelled as a naval officer and executive in the private sector, but the real lessons of Ed's life were not in his many medals and awards. They were the personal qualities of integrity, moderation, and self-discipline that were a part of his daily living. For those fortunate to work with or for Ed, or to call him *friend* or *classmate*, he served as a living example of the lessons of the Naval Academy that shaped his professional life: he was a selfless, inspirational, proficient, adaptable, innovative, articulate, and professional leader. He led by example and displayed an unwavering will to win, a desire to excel, and self-respect—all of which allowed him to hurdle the toughest obstacles that life presented.

In 2008 Ed retired from Northrup Grumman, to spend time with his family and on the water with his two, beloved ladies, his wife Barbara and "Lady B"—a good bit of which was in Key West.

"Captain Sunshine" departed this life in the same manner that he met all life's challenges—with humor and unflinching courage. He left us with an image of his inimitable smile, a strong grip, and his ever-present greetings of "Shipmate" and "It's a Great Navy Day!"

Ed is survived by his wife, Barbara, his daughter, Katherine Killinger-Lewis (Greg), three grandsons: Joshua, Jacob, and John Gardner, and three sisters: LaDonna Rischer, Betty Wyffels, and Karen Petersen.

June-July 2017 Shipmate