

## Robert John Manser



“Bob” Manser passed away on 28 February 2017 in Leesburg, VA, of cancer. He was 78 years old.

Bob was born in Appleton, WI. He spent his childhood in several locations, including NAS Patuxent River, MD, and NAS Barber’s Point, HI, based on his father’s Navy assignments. He was an Eagle Scout. In 1956, he graduated from Washington & Lee High School in Arlington, VA, and joined the Naval Academy Class of 1960. At Annapolis, he excelled both academically and athletically. He was a member of the Seventh Company, played golf and squash, and served as a brigade commander.

Following graduation, he married his high school sweetheart, Linda, who was his Ring Dance date. Bob was a USNA sailing instructor for temporary duty, then proceeded into pilot training at Pensacola, FL, and Beeville, TX. Following flight training, he was assigned to VA-72, flying the A-4 Skyhawk off INDEPENDENCE (CVA-62), including during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He completed his service commitment as a VA-43 RAG instructor at NAS Oceana, VA.

Following his military service, Bob earned his MBA at Harvard, then worked in business for several companies. His positions included product planner at Ford in Michigan, and VP positions at Hospital Affiliates in Tennessee, and B.F. Goodrich in Ohio. Bob was known for his strong work ethic and positive attitude. No job was too big or too small for him. The Navy and the Naval Academy were part of who he was and in Ohio, he served as a Blue & Gold officer. Bob knew Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. He and Linda were actively involved with churches in Michigan, Ohio, California and Virginia. They were blessed with many wonderful friends throughout his life, including long-lasting ones from USNA. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather, and enjoyed sports, especially golf.

He was preceded in death by his father, Captain Burton Manser, USN (Ret.); mother, Mrs. Louise Manser; brother-in-law, John; and grandson, Luke. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Linda; brother, William; sisters- in-law, Ellen “Lloyd” and Margaret; sons, Commander David Manser, USNR (Ret.), and Commander John Manser ’86, USNR (Ret.); daughters-in-law, Maya and Lisa; and five grandchildren.

*June-July 2017 Shipmate*