

## Charles Edward McCaskill



Commander "Ed" McCaskill, USN (Ret.), 78, died peacefully, surrounded by family and friends, on 20 August 2016 near Williamsburg, VA.

Born in Pensacola, FL, on 9 September 1937 to Charles E. McCaskill Sr. and Ruth Shearer, Ed graduated from Marion Military Institute in Marion, AL. In 1956, he took the oath as a Midshipman and began his four years at the Naval Academy with the Class of 1960. There, he discovered his love of sailing, and met other Midshipmen who would become the closest friends of his lifetime.

Upon graduating, Ed returned to his hometown to begin flight training. Winning his Wings and completing advanced training, he was assigned to a Norfolk based anti-submarine squadron (HS-3). He returned to Pensacola as a flight instructor, serving a year in VT-1. He went to the Flight Instructors Indoctrination Group as an Aerodynamics and Propulsion Systems instructor. Ed then volunteered for a Vietnam tour with HA(L)-3, the famed Seawolves. While there, he amassed more than 200 combat flights, most as a fire team flight leader. He was awarded the Silver Star for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity," 11 Air Medals and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. After being stationed at the Amphibious School, Little Creek, and NAS Oceana, he had a fleet tour in Rhode Island. Ed next graduated from the Armed Forces Staff College and moved to Naval Air Force, Atlantic Fleet for a staff tour. Following graduation from the Safety Management course at the Naval Postgraduate School (Monterey, CA), he was assigned as safety department head aboard JOHN F. KENNEDY. Ed completed his naval career by serving tours as an air advisor at SurfLant, and the U.S. Naval Safety Center as publications department head.

After retirement, he worked for the City of Norfolk, VA, in the Department of Housing Services. In 2008, he moved to Colonial Heritage in Williamsburg, where he made many friends, served on committees and became active in the Woodworkers Club.

Ed is survived by his wife of 35 years, Sarah; sons, Jim (Shelly) and John (Karen); daughters, Elaine Turner (Jonathan) and Stephanie Fridge; sister, Vicki Christopher; six grandchildren, Nellia, Kodie (Lexi), Caleb, Hannah, Sophia and Patrick; and a great-grandson, Weston. He was predeceased by his first wife, Suzanne, and son, Michael (Camila).

*November-December 2016 Shipmate*