

## Joseph Henry Peek



“Joe” Peek passed away surrounded by his loving family in Decatur, GA, on 16 December 2016 after a short illness.

Born in Ray, AZ, on 28 May 1935, Joe graduated from Tucson High School in 1953 and attended the University of Arizona, where he was in Navy ROTC. His Eagle Scout background served him well. He was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated with the Class of 1960. After receiving his Wings of Gold at New Iberia, LA, he flew Grumman S2 Trackers in the VS program for six years, including tours on WASP.

Upon leaving the Navy, he joined Eastern Airlines, where he rose to Airbus A320 captain. With the untimely demise of Eastern in 1989, Joe was forced to give up flying.

He then reinvented himself several times becoming a locksmith, an information technologist and a Spanish teacher.

Most importantly, however, he was dedicated to his family of 11 children and his wife, Mary Joan Roche, whom he met on First Class Cruise in 1959. Due to his practice of tough love, coupled with supreme attentiveness, he became known as “The Benevolent Dictator.”

Joe led his family by Christian example with evening Rosaries, Saturday Confession and Sunday Mass attendance. In addition, he was always ready with a helping hand or a kind word for those in need.

His third love after family and flying was his music. As an accomplished trumpet player, he was a band member at USNA and continued to be in demand with bands for many years, most recently, the Callanwolde Concert Band in Atlanta. He was always available to play Taps at local Memorial Day and Veterans’ Day ceremonies.

Joe was predeceased by his beloved son, Fr. Joseph M. Peek, and his three precious grandchildren, Jebidiah Arendale, Jeremiah Vivanco and Gabriela Garcia-Carreras.

He is survived by his wife, Mary; their ten surviving children, Sr. Mary Agnes of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Kathleen Bechen (Brad), Denise Jordan, Margaret Boudreaux (Jerome), Fr. Kevin Peek, Rosemary Bernard (David), Sean Peek, Regina Vivanco (Jose), Elizabeth Arendale (Chris) and Christina Garcia-Carreras (Michael); sister-in-law, Sr. Denise Roche; and 41 grandchildren.

*June-July 2017 Shipmate*